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Italy 'ready to discuss air blockade'

ROME (R) — Italy said Tuesday it would discuss with NATO allies the idea of enforcing an aerial blockade of Iraq, already under a U.N. trade embargo for its invasion of Kuwait. "The Italian government is ready to discuss an aerial blockade," Foreign Ministry spokesman Giovanni Castellana said. Italy would consult its NATO allies and then other members of the United Nations on the issue. "The more strictly we apply the embargo the more the danger of war recedes," Castellana told reporters. "If Iraq refuses that the embargo is total, the regime might begin to retreat and accept conditions for dialogue... a last embargo not only increases Iraq's ability to resist but increases the danger of more drastic solutions," he added. He said the idea was certain to come up at Monday's emergency NATO meeting in Brussels and at talks in Rome next week between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis. British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Sunday London was considering the feasibility of an air blockade against Iraq to enforce the U.N. sanctions imposed after Baghdad's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

OAU seeks to avert Gulf war

PARIS (R) — The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) has begun efforts to persuade Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said Tuesday. "If Iraq could withdraw and restore the sovereignty of Kuwait without fighting that would be better for us all," Museveni told a news conference. Museveni, who is the current OAU chairman, is representing Africa at a United Nations conference in Paris discussing the plight of the world's poorest nations. He said the crisis created by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait had already resulted in rising oil bills for the 41 states at the conference, many of them African. Both Kuwait and Iraq have well established ties with Africa. Kuwait was a major aid donor and Iraq is reported to have strong military ties with Mauritania and Sudan. "We have engaged in quiet diplomacy with both the Americans and the Arab countries to avert any fighting because that would be damaging to us," Museveni said. He said the OAU condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, but the Western reaction demonstrated "a double standard that complicates international relations."

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British tycoon brings in relief supplies Westerners arrive from Iraq

AMMAN (Agencies) — Scores of Western nationals, including 135 West Germans, arrived here from Iraq Tuesday aboard two Iraqi Airways jetliners.

At the same time British millionaire Richard Branson flew into Amman on a Jumbo jet of his Virgin Atlantic Airline carrying food for tens of thousands of Asian nationals stranded in Jordan after fleeing from Kuwait.

It was not immediately clear whether the Jumbo jet would be picking up British women and children and other Westerners expected to arrive in Amman on a third flight from Baghdad later Tuesday.

Shortly after his Jumbo jet landed, Branson and his crew were thanked personally by Her Majesty Queen Noor, who went aboard the plane.

"We are so grateful, we desperately need all this," the Queen told Branson, pointing at the sacks of wheat slung on top of scarlet first class seats aboard the Jumbo.

(Continued on page 5)

Ismail Hijazi passes away

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Mas'adeh Tuesday announced the death of former deputy Ismail Hijazi, who died early Tuesday, after several months of illness, and served as a member of the Lower House for more than one term. The Lower House's speaker and members also mourned his death. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zaid to convey his condolences to the Hijazi family over the death.

Abu Abbas: No attacks on U.S. — yet

BAGHDAD (AP) — Palestinian guerrilla leader Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Abbas) said Tuesday his group will not attack U.S. targets in the Middle East in retaliation for the Americans' intervention in the Gulf unless they strike at Iraq. "Our interests lie in a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis," he told reporters at his heavily guarded headquarters in downtown Baghdad. "For the time being, we don't want to give the Americans an excuse to launch an attack against Iraq," he said. "But if the Americans wage a battle, it will be a fierce one and all their interests in the region will be within our reach," he declared. The guerrilla leader heads the Palestine Liberation Front.

U.S. F-16 crashes in Gulf accident

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. six-engine F-16 involved in the Gulf crash landed Monday in the southern Arabian Peninsula during a routine training mission, the U.S. Defense Department said. A spokesman said the pilot ejected and was unhurt in the accident.

'No Iraqi troops, missiles in Sudan'

PARIS (R) — Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir denied Tuesday that Iraq had deployed troops and sent missiles in Sudan ahead of its invasion of Kuwait. "There is not a single Iraqi soldier, nor a piece of Iraqi weaponry on Sudanese territory," Bashir, in Paris for a U.N. conference, told reporters. Sudan has criticized the U.S. military build-up in the Gulf but remained largely sympathetic to Iraq. Sudanese officers serving in the Gulf have been quoted as saying Iraq deployed around 7,000 soldiers and installed some missiles along Sudan's eastern seaboard facing Saudi Arabia across the Red Sea. They said Iraq sent a brigade to Sudan last year to help the government fight rebels in the south, and dispatched two more brigades a few days before its invasion of Kuwait a month ago.

King returns, plans new Iraq mission

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein, planning a new mission to Iraq to find a diplomatic political solution to the Gulf crisis, returned home Monday after a North African and West European visit.

The King, who called off a visit to Moscow for talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev prior to the superpower summit to be held in Helsinki, Finland, Sunday, met with Italian leader in Rome Monday on the last leg of his visit to Europe.

According to Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, the King plans to visit Baghdad in the next 48 hours. "The King is counting on a lot on his new trip to Baghdad and his talks with (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein," De Michelis said in Rome.

Italian officials said the King gave no details of his plans for the talks in Iraq.

"The King told De Michelis and (Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti that, after collective observations from his tour, he had decided to bring Saddam Hussein up to date," Italian spokesman Pio Mastrobuoni told reporters.

De Michelis said he had asked the King to intervene with the Iraqi leader on behalf of the thousands of Westerners still remaining in Iraq and Kuwait.

King Hussein, who said Monday that war in the Gulf would bring total devastation and could prove disastrous for world peace, left Rome without speaking to reporters.

Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi told the Italians earlier that it had proved impossible to arrange a meeting between the King and Gorbachev before the superpower summit in Helsinki Sunday.

The King's planned trip to Baghdad followed abortive talks last weekend between U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and the resigna-

tion Monday of Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Klibi. Diplomats say King Hussein is promoting a plan under which U.S. and Arab forces would withdraw from Saudi Arabia at the same time as Iraqi forces withdrew from Kuwait.

They would be replaced by an Arab peace-keeping force and negotiations on a political solution within six months.

De Michelis, describing the talks with the King as useful and friendly, said Italy hoped the various diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis would bring results.

But he added: "If they do not, the only way to avoid a military confrontation will be to make sure the sanctions against Iraq are really effective."

De Michelis, current chairman of the European Community Council of Ministers, will host a meeting of EC foreign ministers Friday to discuss plans to give aid to Jordan, Egypt and other countries worst hit by the trade

embargo.

King Hussein's 10-day tour included Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Spain, Britain, West Germany, France and Italy.

"The King affirmed to the leaders of these states that any solution to the Gulf problem should be within an Arab framework and stressed the need to stop the escalation, finding the suitable solutions to the problem and exerting every possible effort to crystallise an Arab and international stand to avoid escalating the crisis," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

During the King's talks in Rome, Andreotti landed Jordan's efforts aimed at finding a solution and affirmed the support of the Italian government for the efforts and expressed its readiness to participate in any diplomatic effort aimed at reaching a political settlement of the Gulf crisis, Petra said.

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. navy seizes Iraqi ship

JEDDAH (Agencies) — The U.S. navy has intercepted and impounded an Iraqi ship carrying tea into the Gulf in the first seizure of Iraq-bound cargo under a U.N. trade embargo, Western diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

The sources said the Zantibia, laden with Sri Lankan tea, was taken to the Omani port of Muscat.

A U.S. navy spokesman contacted aboard the Lasalle, command ship of the U.S. task force in the Gulf, indirectly confirmed the seizure, saying he was "not prepared to dispute" the news.

Details of the interception were not immediately available. The 3,549-tonne Zantibia apparently left Sri Lanka after the U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions against Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2 in an attempt to force Baghdad to withdraw its troops.

The sources said the Sri Lankan government had assured Western countries enforcing the blockade that no further shipments to Iraq would be allowed.

The sources said tea was an important commodity for Iraq where tea-drinking is almost a universal habit.

They said Western intelligence agencies had been tracking the Zantibia as it made its way towards the Gulf from Sri Lanka. U.S. navy crewmen from the guided missile cruiser Biddle boarded an Iraqi tanker in the Red Sea last Friday, but the tanker was found to be empty and was allowed to proceed.

Teh Pentagon said that boarding was its first of an Iraqi ship by the U.S. navy in operations to prevent goods moving in and out of Iraq.

The Defense Department said earlier last Friday that U.S. navy ships had questioned about 350 tankers and cargo ships and had boarded about 10 vessels none of them Iraqi or Kuwaiti.

The only other ship that U.S. forces are reported to have boarded and subsequently prevented from docking was the 91,478-ton Koca Wirama, managed by the Pacific International Lines of Singapore.

That vessel was intercepted in the Red Sea Aug. 28, boarded and searched, and then prevented from proceeding to Aden.

The Pentagon has reported that more than 350 ships of various nationalities have been challenged by U.S. warships in the Gulf and the Red Sea since the U.N. security council decreed the embargo.

The Pentagon has also reported at least 10 boardings. The U.S. customs service detained a Kuwaiti container ship and was examining the cargo to see if anything was destined for Iraq, officials said Tuesday.

The ship Al Wattyah was ordered held Monday evening, said Neil Fitzgibbon, a customs agent based in Newark.

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Iraq denies PLO report of willingness to discuss 'deal'

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq Tuesday denied a statement by a senior Palestinian leader that it was willing to withdraw from most of Kuwait in return for assurances that the United States would not attack.

"Kuwait is a vital part of Iraq," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said in a commentary by its political editor. "It is the branch that has returned to the origin for ever..."

Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), a top aide of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, told a French newspaper that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was ready to quit Kuwait and release all Westerners in return for assurances the U.S. would not attack Iraq

and he could keep a strip of Kuwaiti territory.

"Saddam Hussein is ready to negotiate and to withdraw from Kuwait if he obtains certain guarantees," Abu Iyad told the daily Liberation in an interview published Tuesday.

INA said: "Such talk might have been infused into Mr. Salah Khalaf."

"Iraq insists that American troops must withdraw from the holy lands and that all Arab potential should be directed to liberating Palestine," the agency said, referring to the deployment of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi leader feared that even if Iraq pulls out and releases Westerners held in Iraq and Kuwait, the United States

will still attack him, Abu Iyad said in the newspaper's Tuesday edition.

Abu Iyad said the Iraqi leader wanted to keep a border strip when Kuwait was declared the 19th province of Iraq a week ago.

The strip, which Saddam attached to the Iraqi province of Basra, is called Saddamiyat Al Mitlaa. He would also insist on keeping the Gulf island of Jazirah Bubiyan to increase Iraq's access to the sea.

"We are certain, for our part, that Iraq accepts a political solution," Abu Iyad said.

"Saddam wants a negotiated settlement, but not one that could be interpreted as a failure on his

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Moscow proposes comprehensive international Mideast conference

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Tuesday proposed an international conference on the Gulf crisis that would also take up the Arab-Israeli conflict and the civil war in Lebanon.

In a major foreign policy address delivered in the Pacific coast city of Vladivostok, Shevardnadze said Sunday's summit meeting in Helsinki, Finland, between George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev will mark a major milestone on the road towards resolving the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

He also repeated Soviet condemnation of Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait and appeals to resolve the confrontation through diplomatic means, rather than military force.

The text of his speech was distributed by the official TASS news agency.

"For the first time in history, the international community has acted with so much unanimity and firmness in response to aggression and in seeking to eliminate its consequences," Shevardnadze told an international meeting on Asian relations.

"But it is essential to pursue our objective through non-military means and in a way that would remove the military presence of other countries," he said.

In proposing the international conference on the Middle East, Shevardnadze linked the Gulf crisis to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the civil strife in Lebanon.

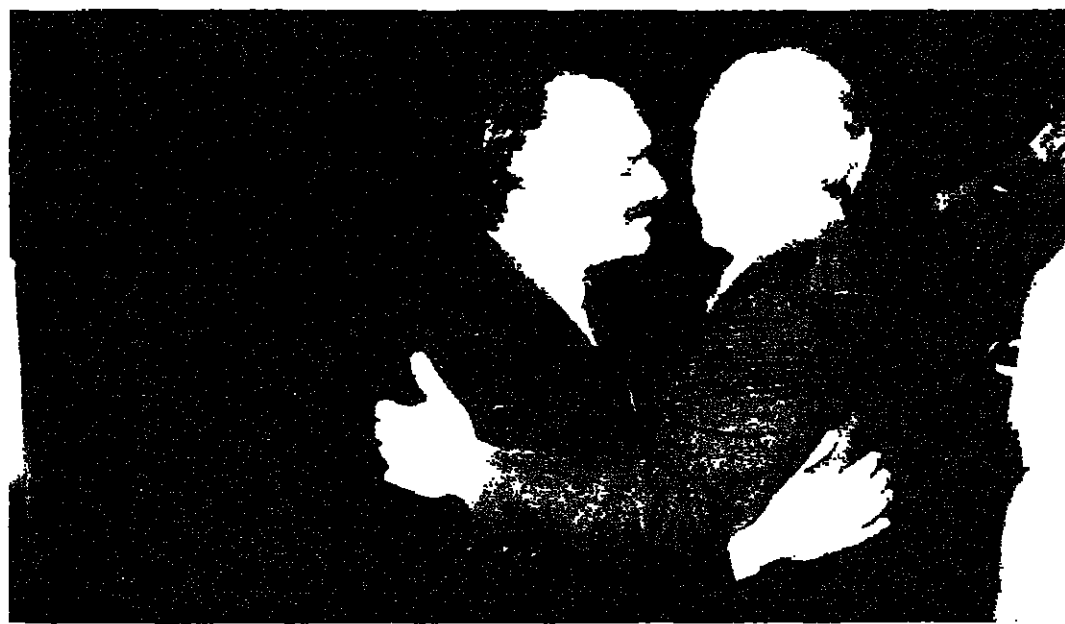
Iraqi President Saddam Hussein proposed that a pullout of his troops from Kuwait be contingent upon an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. The Un-

ited States rejected the plan. "Presumably, Israel's agreement to its (a conference's) convocation could exert a positive influence on the overall situation in the Middle East and on efforts to defuse the crisis in the Gulf," Shevardnadze said.

"For its part, the Soviet Union... might take a fresh look at the issue of Soviet-Israeli relations," Shevardnadze added. The Soviet Union and Israel have not had diplomatic relations since the 1967 Middle East war, although both countries have been moving closer in recent months.

Shevardnadze's speech did not underestimate the difficulties but was the most optimistic statement so far by either superpower about the summit in the Finnish capital Helsinki.

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His Majesty King Hussein is received upon his return from Europe Tuesday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Royal family members and senior officials (Petra photo)

Crown Prince demands world action to speed up evacuation

'Riots' a common occurrence at Ruweished camp, relief officials report

By Ali Masarweh and P.V. Vivekanand

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday levelled angry criticism against the international community and media for not giving enough attention to the plight of tens of thousands of Asian evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq and called on them to "contribute immediately and effectively" towards transporting the evacuees home.

The Crown Prince's criticism and call came amid reports of worsening conditions at two camps housing evacuees awaiting clearance to proceed to Amman or Aqaba from the Al Ruweished border post and several violent

incidents were reported from at least one site — a camp called Shaalan Two where the number of evacuees rose to at least 35,000 Monday.

"They are literally frying in the desert sun, and there is a severe shortage of water and food," reported a European relief worker. "Many of them are threatening to go on a total hunger strike; not that their present condition is any different than a hunger strike now," she added, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

The suffering of the people at the camp, which the Crown Prince visited Sunday, has been reaching the outside world in bits and pieces, and Prince Hassan alluded to inefficient and in-

adequate international attention and efforts to address the plight of the thousands of Asians when he appeared at a press conference held at the Royal Palace by relief organisations.

"The plight of these people has only evoked the faintest of responses from the world community and from a world press more interested in war scenarios than in humanitarian relief," a visibly angry Prince Hassan said in a ten-minute statement.

Pointing out that the problem is far beyond Jordan's capabilities to cope with the ever increasing needs of the evacuees, whose number could reach as high as two million according to reports, the crown Prince said that it

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'Stand against Saudi-Egyptian' moves behind Klibi resignation

By Lamis K. Andoni and P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporters

THE RESIGNATION of Chadli Klibi as secretary-general of the Arab League was not surprising to many Arab diplomats close to the intricacies that have emerged in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2. Rather, as one diplomat phrased it, "the only surprise is that why it took so long, given Klibi's dilemma of having to bow to pressure from certain blocs in the Arab League and execute things he personally opposes."

The resignation of Klibi, announced in Tunis Tuesday, is also another major turn in the schisms and shifting alliances that the Gulf crisis has brought out among the Arab ranks and the diplomatic casualty will not be the last either, according to diplomats.

At the same time, by

announcing his resignation, Klibi has not only underlined the deep split that characterises the Arab World today but also pulled the rug from under the feet of Saudi Arabia and Egypt in their efforts to assume a dominating position in the Arab World by raising Arab and international debate over the Arab League and sought to preempt Saudi-Egyptian moves to push through the final decision on moving the Arab League headquarters to the Egyptian capital from Tunis.

According to Arab diplomat and league officials contacted in Tunis by the Jordan Times, it was a foregone conclusion that Klibi, 64, would have stepped down even before the Aug. 30 meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Cairo.

What appeared to have prompted the resignation on Tuesday, they said, is a concerted campaign by pro-Western Arab states led by Saudi Arabia and Egypt to

convene another, much more crucial, meeting of the Arab League in Cairo. The Sept. 10 meeting was originally called to finalise the issue of the transfer of Arab League headquarters to the Egyptian capital, and Klibi insisted that such an important meeting should be held in Tunis.

"Considering the importance of the issue involved, and in light of the provisions of the Arab League charter, Klibi argued that it could not be held in Cairo but he lost against the pressure that was applied on him," said the source.

Reports from Cairo said Tuesday that Lebanon's Assad Al Assad, assistant secretary-general of the Arab League, will temporarily take over from Klibi and that the Sept. 10 meeting would be held in the Egyptian capital.

The Tunisian source noted that the issue of a successor to Klibi "is sure to raise a major controversy among those Arab states which have found themselves being drawn into the Saudi-Egyptian camp. This also appears to be one of the objectives that prompted

blows it has suffered in the crisis. In recent days, the PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat, has been promoting a compromise solution to the conflict that would involve an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait but tie it to a U.S. withdrawal from the Gulf and the staging of elections for a new Kuwaiti government.

Though potentially attractive to Western and Arab leaders eager to avoid a potentially devastating war, the prospect of such a compromise horrifies Israeli officials because it would restore the PLO as a power in the region and encourage Palestinians.

"You can imagine the legend that would develop: that Saddam faced the whole Western world and still was not defeated," one official said. "This would cause an

explosion, not only here but in the moderate Arab states."

Israeli officials acknowledge that even a full-scale war between the United States and Iraq and the overthrow of Mr. Hussein could fail to change the character of the Iraqi regime. According to Israeli intelligence assessments, "there is no pro-Western alternative in Iraq," one senior official said. "Whoever succeeds Saddam very likely will not be much better."

For that reason, some Israeli analysts believe the main U.S. objective should be to cripple Iraq as a military power. "Don't define it as getting rid of Saddam," said a government source. "He can even stay, as a weak puppet. But the main thing has to be to stop Iraq as a threat to the Middle East."

Israel alarmed by chance of a deal in Gulf

By Jackson Diehl Washington Post

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The prospect that the Gulf crisis may be resolved through United Nations mediation has alarmed Israel's rightist government, which is intent on bringing about the destruction of Iraq's military potential and the downfall of President Saddam Hussein.

In public, senior Israeli officials insist that they are not advocating war between the United States and Iraq. Still, they say that the Middle East will remain unstable, and Israel will be severely threatened, if Mr. Hussein remains in power.

If Mr. Hussein "stays in power and retains the weapons, there will be grounds for concern here, in this region and I think throughout the

world," Defense Minister Moshe Arens said in a television appearance. "I hope this will not be the way the crisis ends."

Commentators outside the government have put the argument even more forcefully. "In truth," said an editorial in the newspaper Yediot Achronot, "successful mediation of the crisis arouses fear, not because Israel delights in war" but because "a diplomatic compromise for the Kuwait crisis, leaving the Iraqi war machine intact and bringing about the withdrawal of American forces from the region, would mean that we would remain here alone with Saddam and his mad ambitions."

Senior government officials say they believe the mediation effort launched by the UN secretary-general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, may only derail

what has been a steady buildup of U.S. pressure on Mr. Hussein, and they privately express concern about the apparent interest of President George Bush in the effort.

"We are puzzled about Bush's intentions," one official said. "We're afraid that because of the hostages, he may be losing the resolve we saw until now."

Another official close to the top leadership said that Israel does not oppose a diplomatic solution to the crisis as such, but feels strongly that there can be no compromise with Mr. Hussein.

"We would like Saddam Hussein to disappear one way or another," the official said. "We believe that if there is a diplomatic solution that is forceful enough, that humiliates him and weakens him enough, force may not be

necessary." As the crisis has shifted towards negotiation, Israeli officials have begun to fear that a settlement will again leave Israel with the job of facing Iraq militarily, a challenge that could eventually plunge Israel into another devastating regional war.

"The whole Middle East and particularly Israel would be in grave danger" if Mr. Hussein survives, said Zalman Shoval, the new Israeli ambassador to the United States. "We could end up facing the same conflict later on, under less auspicious conditions."

Behind this security concern, officials said, an equally intense Israeli political interest motivates the antagonism to UN mediation: preventing the Palestine Liberation Organisation, an Iraqi ally, from reversing the political and financial

blows it has suffered in the crisis. In recent days, the PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat, has been promoting a compromise solution to the conflict that would involve an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait but tie it to a U.S. withdrawal from the Gulf and the staging of elections for a new Kuwaiti government.

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For that reason, some Israeli analysts believe the main U.S. objective should be to cripple Iraq as a military power. "Don't define it as getting rid of Saddam," said a government source. "He can even stay, as a weak puppet. But the main thing has to be to stop Iraq as a threat to the Middle East."

100,000 could die in Gulf war — Chevenement

'No legal base for intervention'

PARIS (Agencies) — French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement said Tuesday at least 100,000 people would die if war broke out in the Gulf and that there was no legal basis for a Western military intervention in Iraq or Kuwait.

Chevenement, who has faced resignation calls over his moderate line on the Gulf crisis, compared a war in the Gulf with U.S. involvement in Vietnam and the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan.

"Specialists know a war would be extremely costly in human terms. Those I consult regularly say at least 100,000 people would die... those who envisage a full-blooded war have not analysed the consequences, which would be largely unpredictable."

"There is no legal basis for a military intervention against Iraq or even simply to liberate Kuwait," he told French radio.

Chevenement, saying he was a strong believer in a diplomatic solution to the crisis, said the United Nations embargo on Iraq was 95 per cent effective but should now be extended to air and land transport.

The Socialist minister said hawks in favour of a war had failed to analyse the consequences of a war between Iraq and forces sent to the Gulf, dominated by some 100,000 U.S. troops.

"There is an illusory belief that this would be a war limited to an area 5,000 kilometres from our own borders," said Chevenement. "They have not understood the immense difficulty of a land war led by a foreign force, in Vietnam

by the United States and in Afghanistan by the Soviet Union for example: It would be a very hard war with chemical and ballistic weapons," he added.

U.S. officials have concluded that full-scale war against Iraq would result in 20,000 to 30,000 U.S. casualties, assuming Iraq used its chemical weapons, the weekly magazine U.S. News and World Report said in its current edition.

The News magazine, quoting unidentified officials, said U.S. President George Bush primed at the prospect and told aides it was too high a price to pay. U.S. News did not spell out a breakdown of killed and wounded.

It said Bush had shifted his emphasis towards diplomacy and away from war, at least temporarily, because of the secret casualty estimates.

"U.S. News has learned that the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the National Security Council have concluded that a full-scale war against Iraq, with its almost certain use of chemical weapons, could cost 20,000 to 30,000 American combat casualties," the magazine said.

The magazine quoted officials as acknowledging that the estimates "may be overly pessimistic."

"But when the figure was conveyed to Bush, the president grimaced, shook his head and told his aides it was too high a price to pay," it said.

A White House spokesman declined comment on the report, citing a long-standing policy of refusing to comment on intelligence matters.

Bush's pass-the-hat strategy questioned

By Martin Crutsinger

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush is dispatching two high-level missions this week on a global search for billions of dollars to support the economic and military campaign against Iraq.

Some critics at home say that strategy is unbecoming of a superpower.

One delegation, led by Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, leaves Tuesday for stops in Paris, London, Seoul, South Korea and Tokyo, in search of as much as \$25 billion to help defray the expense of the U.S. troop deployment and to aid nations suffering hardships from the economic embargo against Iraq.

Secretary of State James Baker leaves later in the week on a similar whirlwind trip looking for assistance in the capitals of oil-rich Gulf countries.

The fact that Bush was sending two of his closest cabinet advisers emphasised the importance the president was attaching to the task of getting other countries to share the burden. However, administration officials conceded that the sales was not going to be easy.

Bush's effort has also raised questions about the propriety of issuing a global call for donations to support the U.S. military. Critics charged that it left the appearance that U.S. soldiers are up for hire as mercenaries.

"I don't want to leave any impression in the world that we pay for our soldiers and our sailors if we send them into another part of the world only through another country's money," said Senator Patrick Leahy.

Bush has vigorously rejected suggestions that putting pressure on the allies for money to support the U.S. military was improper and he has received support for this position from other members of Congress.

"The Japanese have a hell of a stake in this and they ought to pay a hell of a share," said Sen. Frank Lautenberg.

Many congressmen noted that Japan and many countries in Europe are more dependent on the flow of oil from the Gulf than the United States is.

Still, many private analysts saw the pledge-seeking missions as stark examples of where the United States' global fortunes now stand.

As the world's largest debtor nation, burdened by huge trade and budget deficits, the United States no longer has the economic muscle to go it alone.

"We are no longer the economic super power we used to be," said Lawrence Chimerine of the Economic Strategy Institute, a Washington research organisation. "Our changing role in the world economy is clearly in evidence here."

In launching the burden sharing initiative last week, Bush maintained that the "shape of the post-cold war world" was at stake in the Gulf crisis.

C. Fred Bergsten, a former treasury department official, said that Bush's hasty effort could well serve as a prototype for future global cooperation in which the U.S. military would stand ready to preserve peace with financial backing from other countries.

However, a more formal arrangement that committed the United States to putting U.S. soldiers in harm's way to police the world's hot spots would raise political opposition, Bergsten conceded.

"Some Americans are not going to like that because it sounds like we are mercenaries," Bergsten said.

U.S., Saudis feud over forces' control

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush has intervened in a dispute between his military commander in Saudi Arabia and the Saudi government over who has the power to order an attack by U.S. forces, the Washington Post said Tuesday.

Quoting administration officials, the Post said the issue is still unresolved.

The dispute began when a Saudi commander, Lieutenant-General Khalid Ben Sultan, told reporters last Wednesday that any decision to use U.S. forces deployed in the kingdom would have to be preceded by consultations between Bush and King Fahd.

General Norman Schwarzkopf, the U.S. commander in Saudi Arabia, reportedly objected strongly to the remark and complained immediately to the Defence Department and the White House, the Post said, citing knowledgeable sources.

It said Schwarzkopf, who has set up his headquarters at a Saudi military facility, was worried the Saudis could prevent U.S. forces from going into action if they needed to.

Later the same day, Bush conveyed to Saudi Arabia's ambassador, Bandar Ben Sultan, the military concern that U.S. forces be unquestionably under U.S. command.

The ambassador is the Saudi general's brother, the Post added.

It said Bandar reiterated what his government contends was the original agreement between Fahd and Defence Secretary Dick Cheney — that U.S. forces were invited into the kingdom to defend it from attack by Iraq and, by implication, would need Saudi permission for anything other than defensive operations.

The Post quoted officials as saying Bush did not take issue with Bandar's statement of Saudi policy. They said the question of offensive operations was in effect deferred.

The newspaper also reported



Norman Schwarzkopf

that Saudi Arabia was reluctant to let the United States base B-52 bombers on its soil because of their offensive capability.

It said the United States had asked permission to base the B-52s outside Jeddah after Egypt had turned down a similar request.

The New York Times reported Tuesday that the United States had secretly deployed combat aircraft in several Gulf countries.

The stationing of some U.S. aircraft in the Gulf states of Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman had been reported earlier. But the Times said the full extent was not disclosed because of the Gulf states' continuing sensitivities about invading the Americans.

The New York Times said FA18 attack planes, A-6 bombers, AV-8 harrier jets and EA-6 electronic jamming planes had gone to Bahrain, an F-16C fighter squadron to Qatar, F-15 fighters to the United Arab Emirates and F-15E ground attack planes to Oman.

Spokesmen for the White House and the Defence Department were not immediately available for comment on the reports.

U.S. warplanes enjoy unprecedented Gulf access

WASHINGTON (AP) — Several smaller Gulf states are allowing the United States to base combat aircraft on their soil, shedding a traditional reluctance for close military ties with America, according to Pentagon sources.

"It's very important to the United States that our aircraft be able to operate out of these nations in the Persian Gulf," said one source.

The source said Defence Secretary Dick Cheney was able to negotiate numerous with the states on the Arabian Peninsula during his trip there last month.

Because of the "threat" posed by Iraqi forces following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait a month ago, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar have allowed U.S. warplanes to operate on their soil.

Cheney was able to extend those relationships to also include other Gulf states such as Bahrain and Oman, said the sources. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not have specifics on their aircraft deployment.

Some have allowed for refueling rights, others have allowed for the stationing of aircraft and others have allowed cargo operations to be maintained at their bases.

Bahrain has agreed to accept Marine FA-18 attack planes, A-6 attack aircraft, AV-8 harrier jets and EA-6 electronic jamming planes, the New York Times reported in its Tuesday edition.

In addition, the United States deployed a "sizeable number" of F-16 fighters in the United Arab

Emirates, the newspaper reported. Also, the United States has F-15E ground attack planes based in Oman, the Times reported.

The United States already has acknowledged stationing a squadron of F-16C fighter planes in Qatar.

Cheney reached the agreement with Saudi Arabia to allow for the stationing of U.S. troops on Saudi soil in a meeting with King Fahd just days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He returned to the Gulf two weeks after the invasion to help fortify Arab support against Iraq in discussions with the leaders of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Those countries warned towards military cooperation with the United States during the eight-year war between Iran and Iraq, when U.S. warships protected Kuwaiti tankers from Iranian attack in the Gulf.

In Alexandria a group of U.S. senators and representatives met for 90 minutes with President Hosni Mubarak and later praised Egypt's "brave and courageous" stand in sending troops to Saudi Arabia.

The senators indicated they would push for more financial aid to Egypt and for the cancellation of its military debt to the United States.

"Egypt is being totally cooperative," said Sen. Claiborne Pell.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Qichen urges Arab solution

Brady to visit Japan

ANKARA (R) — Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, visiting Turkey to discuss the Gulf crisis, repeated a call for an Arab solution and said China opposed the military involvement of major powers. Speaking at a dinner given by Foreign Minister Ali Bozer Monday night, he urged all parties to exercise restraint and avoid using armed force. "The Gulf crisis poses a grave threat to peace in the region and the world as a whole," said Qian, quoted by the Anatolian news agency. "Iraq must unconditionally withdraw its troops from Kuwait and reply positively to the intermediary efforts of the Arab League and calls by the international community." Qian, who arrived Monday, will meet President Turgut Ozal and Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut Wednesday and leave on Friday.

Ben Bella not to seek presidency

PARIS (R) — Independent Algeria's first leader, Ahmad Ben Bella, said Tuesday he would not seek the presidency after he returns from exile later this month. In an interview with French radio, Ben Bella said his Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA) would contest elections at all levels, but "personally I will not seek the presidency." Ben Bella, 73, described contemporary Algeria as a "relaxed, open society" but said its full political spectrum had not been represented in past elections. "I think the moment has come to go home because the future of the country is being decided," he said. "There will be municipal and cantonal elections, there will be national assembly elections. I think my movement must participate in the elections we have had don't show the true political face of the country, the true political panorama." Ben Bella, deposed by a coup in 1965, was jailed and released into European exile in 1980. He plans to arrive in Algeria on Sept. 27 with family and hundreds of MDA members. A law on political associations last year paved the way for multi-party democracy after 28 years of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front.

TOKYO (R) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady will come to Tokyo Friday to discuss funding for multinational forces in the Gulf and aid for states hit by the embargo on Iraq, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. A ministry statement said that, during a visit lasting just a few hours, Brady would meet Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. "Brady will discuss support for the multinational forces and the surrounding states affected by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait," the Foreign Ministry said.

Ethiopia floods threaten 400,000

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Floodwaters from three rivers in western Ethiopia have driven about 400,000 Ethiopians and Sudanese from their homes and farms, the Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said Tuesday. It said more than 300,000 Sudanese and about 100,000 Ethiopians had taken refuge because the Baro, Jebebe and Alwaro rivers in Gambella region were overflowing.

Lebanese envoy returns home

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's ambassador to Kuwait, Adnan Badra, is back home after evacuating with his staff from Kuwait, a foreign ministry announcement said Tuesday. It said Badra drove from Kuwait to Lebanon via Iraq, Jordan and Syria, arriving Monday. The Lebanese ambassador and nine staffers at the mission in Kuwait left on Aug. 23, one day before the deadline set by Iraq for the closure of embassies in Kuwait and their resettlement in Baghdad. Fares' Eid, who headed the consular section at the embassy in Kuwait, said Badra will brief President Elias Hrawi on the situation of some 50,000 Lebanese who lived in Kuwait and Iraq before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Israeli Arab support for Iraq widens gap with Jewish majority

By Karin Lamb
The Associated Press

KUFR KANNA — Children in this Biblical Arab town used to play "uprising," mimicking their stone-throwing Palestinian cousins in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The U.S.-Iraqi showdown brought a new game: "Burn the American flag."

The children are picking up on what many adults are saying in Kufr Kanna and the other Arab towns of Israel: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is a hero who will unite the Arabs against the United States and its ally, Israel.

The widespread support for Saddam among Israel's 800,000 Arab citizens has startled most Israeli Jews. Liberals are disappointed, and hardliners are crying "treason" and even urging expulsion of Arab citizens.

"The Arabs in Israel are crossing a red line — support for an enemy who is threatening to annihilate half of Israel with chemical weapons," said Eliezer Tsafir, Arab affairs adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"We used to say the majority of our Arab citizens are loyal to the state, but I'm not sure any longer how accurate it is," Tsafir added.

He and others warned that "Saddammania" was further weakening Jewish-Arab coexistence, already hurt by Israeli Arabs' support for the 33-month Palestinian uprising against the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Israeli Arabs' support for Saddam grows partly from anger at their treatment by the Jewish majority. They were ruled by a military government

until 1966. Today their communities get only about a quarter the government funds of similar Jewish towns.

Muslim fundamentalism also plays a role. Fundamentalists are angry at American "infidels" being sent into Saudi Arabia near the Muslim holy places.

A study by Givat Haviva, a left-wing Israeli think tank, found that Israeli Arab intellectuals first condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait but rallied behind Saddam when U.S. troops moved into Arab lands.

The support for Saddam has been outspoken in Kufr Kanna, a hillside farming town of 12,000 north of Nazareth that is said to be where Jesus changed water into wine.

Two weeks after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, about 2,000 people marched through town, raising banners such as "Saddam, hit the Americans and Israel with chemical weapons." An American flag and pictures of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak were burned.

Omar Saeed, a leader of the nationalist Sons of the Village movement, said it was the demonstration that inspired the child's game of pretending to torch makeshift American flags.

Saeed, a self-proclaimed socialist, sees Saddam as a fellow revolutionary because he toppled Kuwait's oil-rich rulers.

"Saddam is leading the revolution of the poor. He is the Arabs' Robin Hood," said Saeed, 30, speaking in the living room of his father's two-story home overlooking the town.

Saeed's 65-year-old father, Radwan, called Saddam a savior who was fighting to un-

ite the Arabs in the tradition of the late Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser.

Radwan, who has spent 10 years under town arrest for nationalist activities, pointed to a picture of Nasser on the wall. "Tomorrow we'll have a picture of Saddam up there as well," he said.

Israeli Jews are shocked by such sentiments from their Arab countrymen who remained silent during Israel's war with the Arabs.

"I didn't expect to find them on friendly terms with such a dictator," said Yossi Sarid of the left-wing Citizens Rights Movement. "Maybe they haven't digested deeply the democratic rules of the game."

Conservative Israeli newspapers suggested the government should crack down on Arabs supporting Saddam.

"No one asks that they (Israeli Arabs) identify with Israeli policy, but no state that values its existence can accept the identification of its citizens with an enemy. One does not play with fire," said an editorial in the Maariv daily.

Kufr Kanna Mayor Aref Hamdan said Arabs already were angry at "separate and unequal" policies under which a permit was denied for building a factory. The town's unemployment rate is about 25 per cent, more than twice the Jewish rate.

Mohammad Abbas, who is unemployed after losing jobs in his field of biology and then as a waiter, said Arabs decay what they say is the arrogant attitude of the Jewish majority. He said he now puts all his hopes in Saddam.

"Saddam represents exactly the person who can lead the Arabs to compete with the West and face the Jews," he said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 72111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
15:50 Educational programme
16:00 News summary in Arabic
16:05 Cairo news message
16:20 Local programme
16:30 News in Arabic
16:35 Arabic series
16:40 Arabic programme
16:45 News in Arabic
16:50 Play

PROGRAMME TWO

16:50 S.O.S. Duparous
17:00 News in French
17:15 Classical music
17:30 News in Hebrew
17:35 News in Arabic
17:40 A Family for Joe
17:45 Documentary
17:50 News in English
17:55 Shaka Zulu

PRAYER TIMES

04:48 Fajr
05:38 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:34 Dhuhr
16:09 Asr
19:01 Maghrib
20:31 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623466
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623461
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712761
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151
Assumption International Church Tel. 683325
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611293
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Wa'el Khartabli 66597
Dr. Jamil Tuff 794710
Dr. Nabil Al Mubarak 82925
Dr. Hanna Mansour 749664
Firas Pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 737356
Al Azzam pharmacy 637065
Nawrokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636736
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shimoud pharmacy 637666
IBRD:
Dr. Lutfi Al Shalabi (985238)
Al Shura pharmacy (985238)
ZARQA:
Dr. Yousef Awad (-)

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 812228
Blood Bank 771221
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 693000
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Assault Municipality 787111
Complaints (directly assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Repairs 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jeddah Television 771111
Radio Jordan 640100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636381
R.J. Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldik Maternity, J. Amn 6442015
Alkhaldik Maternity, J. Amn 6424112
Jabal Amman Maternity 642562
Malha, J. Amman 636140
Shamsi Hospital 649131
Palestine Shamsi 649131
University Hospital 845894
Al-Musaber Hospital 6672279
The Islamic Abdali 66612737
Al-Abdi Abdali 6661646
Italian, Al-Mohajireen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marla 87161115
Queen Alia Hospital 66234930
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ras Sina Hospital (09)986732
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)127555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)127275
The Al Nafes Hospital (02)1247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)5200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

16:00 Damascus (RJ)
16:00 Jeddah (RJ)
16:00 Larnaca (RJ)
16:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:00 Cairo (RJ)
16:00 London (RJ)
16:00 Madrid (RJ)
16:00 Paris (RJ)
16:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
16:00 Brussels, Rome (RJ)
16:00 Athens (RJ)
16:00 Jeddah (RJ)
16:00 Baghdad (RJ)
16:00 Cairo (RJ)
16:00 Jeddah (RJ)
16:00 Larnaca (RJ)
16:00 Jeddah (RJ)
16:00 Larnaca (RJ)
16:00 Jeddah (RJ)
16:00 Larnaca (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

16:00 Damascus (RJ)
16:00 Jeddah (RJ)
16:00 Larnaca (RJ)
16:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:00 Cairo (RJ)
16:00 London (RJ)
16:00 Madrid (RJ)
16:00 Paris (RJ)
16:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
16:00 Brussels, Rome (RJ)
16:00 Athens (RJ)
16:00 Jeddah (RJ)
16:00 Baghdad (RJ)
16:00 Cairo (RJ)
16:00 Jeddah (RJ)
16:00 Larnaca (RJ)
16:00 Jeddah (RJ)
16:00 Larnaca (RJ)
16:00 Jeddah (RJ)
16:00 Larnaca (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 350 / 450
Banana 300 / 400
Beans (Mukhammar) 450 / 400
Beans 320 / 220
Cabbage 130 / 100
Carrot 240 / 220
Cauliflower 250 / 200
Corn 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 140 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 300 / 250
Eggplant 160 / 120
Figs 550 / 400
Garlic 800 / 700
Gaspacho 350 / 300
Grapes 600 / 500
Lemon 320 / 250
Mallow 120 / 80
Melon (large) 150 / 100
Melon (small) 200 / 150
Onion (dry) 220 / 180
Orange 450 / 400
Olive 540 / 480
Peaches 620 / 550
Peanut 600 / 500
Pepper (hot) 200 / 180
Pepper (sweet) 200 / 180
Potato 420 / 350
Radish 150 / 100
Sage 200 / 150
Sweet garden 220 / 180
Tomatoes 110 / 70
Watermelon 120 / 80

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Mohammad condoles pilot's family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Tuesday delegated director of his office Turki Al Khreisha to attend the funeral of air force pilot Thabet Issa Atallah who was killed in a crash while training Monday.

Parliament receives Iraqi delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Tuesday met with the visiting Iraqi National Assembly delegation headed by Abdul Wahab Al Hifi, who conveyed to them the greetings of the People's Assembly Speaker Sadi Mahdi Saleh and of the assembly's members. Hifi praised the Jordanian stand on the Gulf crisis, describing it as a pan-Arab stand. He voiced pride in the Jordanian people's position vis-a-vis the presence of foreign forces in the region. Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sulaiman Arar welcomed the delegation to Jordan and hailed the Iraqi people for their steadfastness in the face of challenges. Arar reviewed the official and popular Jordanian positions on the Gulf crisis and reiterated Jordan's firm stand, calling for an inter-Arab solution to Gulf crisis, and rejecting the presence of foreign forces in the region. Attending the meeting were a number of deputies and Senate members.

UNDP director arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-General of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) William Draper arrives here today (Wednesday) for talks with senior Jordanian officials on the evacuees' problems and the programme's contribution to this problem. Draper will pay field visits to evacuee camps to get first hand information about the needs and kinds of assistance needed.

Jordan pledges education for all by 2000

GENEVA (Petra) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan Tuesday stressed Jordan's interest in providing education for all by the year 2000, and pledged Jordan's continued efforts to eradicate illiteracy by that date. In an address to a world conference on education held here, Hamdan underlined the importance of Jordan's development plan which has been adopted by the National Conference on Education Development, held in Amman in 1987, saying that the plan will contribute to improving the quality of education. He noted the special role played by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the other organisations concerned with spreading awareness about the dangers of illiteracy and means of reducing illiteracy rates to less than 10 per cent by the end of the year 2000.

Farmers urge Arab solution to Gulf crisis

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Council of the Arab Farmers Union has called on all Arab farmers' associations and agricultural cooperatives to send food and medical supplies to the Iraqi people. At an emergency meeting, held recently in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, the council called for an immediate withdrawal of foreign forces from Arab territories and stressed the need for an inter-Arab solution to contain the Gulf crisis. The council voiced full support for Jordan's positive stand in support of Iraq. Jordan was represented in the meeting by Director of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation's Projects Department Mohammad Masalha.

Veterinarians express support for Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — The meetings of the extraordinary session of the General Federation of Arab Veterinarians started here Tuesday under the chairmanship of the Jordanian Veterinarians Association President Mohammad Al Tal. Speakers at the opening session of the meetings, which were called to discuss the situation in the Arab Gulf region, denounced the foreign intervention in the region and voiced their support for Iraq which, they said, is defending the Arab Nation against imperialist-Zionist powers. Delegations from Iraq, Tunisia, Yemen, Palestine, Sudan and Jordan are taking part in the meetings.

London sends aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — On Sept. 4, Virgin Atlantic Boeing 747 arrived from London at Queen Alia International Airport. The plane was carrying a large number of blankets, antibiotic drugs and oral rehydration salts. This was a gift from the British government to help the Jordanian authorities carry out their assistance programme to refugees. This donation was in addition to £500,000 given to the ICRC/Jordanian Red Crescent on Aug. 23. Also on board the plane were large quantities of rice and flour.

Training courses to be held at QASWF

AMMAN (Petra) — Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASWF) facilities will serve as training centres on emergency relief operations, according to a decision taken Tuesday by the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The two U.N. agencies will be holding short training courses on emergency operations for the public and for governmental and non-governmental organisations currently running the relief operations in the evacuee camps. Participants in the courses will be trained on management of emergency camps, methods of distributing food and medical supplies and detecting and dealing with emergency situations.

7,633 evacuees leave Amman by air Monday

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 7,633 evacuees left Amman by air Monday, according to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) sources. The sources said that 36 flights were organised Monday, to airlift that number of evacuees. The sources added that the CAA had opened Amman Civil Airport in Marka for air traffic as of Aug. 24 to facilitate the travel of people who were evacuated from Iraq and Kuwait following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

Art exhibition opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — An art exhibition entitled "Palestinian Art from the Occupied Lands" will be opened at Jordan National Gallery for the Arts on Sept. 6. The exhibition will last for two weeks and will display works of art by Vera Tamari, Sulaiman Mansour, Tayseer Barakat and Nabil Anani.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zura displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition displaying posters on environmental control measures of each sector of the environment (air, land and water) at the British Council.
- Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Registration and Research Centre of the Department of Antiquities, Jabal Amman.

'Unknown soldiers' keep vigil in the skies

AMMAN'S Queen Alia International Airport, about 30 kilometres south of the capital, was what one would call a "regular" airport, with very little out of the ordinary activity in its six years of existence, with an average of 50 incoming and outgoing flights every day. That is, until Aug. 5. Life will never be the same for the controllers at the control tower, what with an average of 100 take-offs and landings every day in the wake of the massive evacuation of foreigners, the heavy responsibility they shoulder to ensure maximum safety, and chances of having to make up for "mistakes" that "handing overs" entail, not to mention the "corrupt" questions journalists ask. ("Is Jesse Jackson aboard the flight from Baghdad?" was a question asked dozens of times last week, says one of the controllers). The Jordan Times sought to find out the intricacies that a "triple load" entails at a control tower. Ica Wahbeh reports:

AMMAN — The big bird is rolling along the taxiway. It turns once and a few metres further it comes to a halt, its long, sleek body throbbing with life from the engines. It waits obediently at the threshold until the voice fills the cabin: "Saudi tree one two four cleared for take off. Runway two six left. Surface wind 250 (degrees) 14 knots."

The engines rev, thrusting the bird forward, fighting gravity, lifting it higher and higher in the atmosphere. The eyes do not have time to watch the undulating, jagged, retract. The traffic is heavy, planes are stacked, circling around, waiting to come in to land to pick up passengers, some of whom simply cannot wait to get out of the Middle East (remember those Austrians who were ferried out by Kurt Waldheim? They must have set a record of speed in changing aircraft at Marka airport. One would have thought bombs and missiles and what not were going to rain in the next few seconds).

"Jordanian seven zero one, this is Queen Tower, clear to land. Runway two six left. Surface wind two seven zero 13 knots," drones on the air traffic controller's voice unperturbed by other voices, the clattering of teleprinters and other equipment. Quite simply, he cannot afford to make a mistake.

As the plane position itself on the gliding path that will bring it down to touchdown point the voice adds: "wind check 208 14 knots."

The plane lands smoothly. Another "operation" executed perfectly. The controller has just that little fraction of a second to take a sigh of relief before turning attention to another blink on the radar screen.

These are the "unknown soldiers," as a Royal Jordanian official fully called them, who have ensured that an overnight switch from an average load of 50 take-offs and landings to 200 a day did not really endanger human lives.

They are the operators at the three civil airports in the Kingdom who "look after aircraft and peoples, comfort and put at ease" thousands of refugees who pass through Jordan on their way home.

After Iraq's takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2, more precisely since Aug. 5 till Sept. 3, 100,512 evacuees have been transported to their countries from Marka, Aqaba and Queen Alia international airport, according to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) officials.

For the purpose of transporting all these people there have been 536 non-scheduled flights in addition to normal, scheduled flights of Royal Jordanian (RJ) and other operators.

The planes were chartered from almost all over the world. In a list provided to the Jordan Times by RJ Public Relations Department, there were as many as 32 airlines flying in and out of the three

airports.

The cost of the operation, according to RJ officials, is to be covered in accordance with some understandings. If the planes are air force aircraft, the payment is made either through the embassy of the respective country or in cash. If planes come from countries where RJ does not fly, payment is made in cash. If RJ has credit in a country (meaning it flies regularly to and from that country), the payment will be exacted through the Clearing House (an IATA-International Air Transport Association - Swiss-based organisation).

Operations at Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA) are running round the clock, with personnel working in 24-hour shifts.

Usual QAIA capacity is 1,800 passengers at any moment. Nowadays the airport is using maximum capacity to accommodate over 3,000 passengers daily. At a certain point in time last week, as many as 7,000 people were thronging the airport premises after what was described as a misinterpretation of instructions that ended up in about 60 busloads of evacuees being brought to the airport direct from the Ruweished border post.

The transport of evacuees is coordinated with the National Committee for care of Arab nationals arriving from Iraq and Kuwait and with the embassies of the countries refugees are from. Random take off and landing rates at the three airports showed the following figures:

Sunday Sept. 2, at QAIA, 24 take offs and landings. Marks Airport, Sept. 29, 29 take offs and landings. Aqaba Airport (one day, no date) 32 take offs and landings.

The majority of refugees is formed by Egyptians and Yemenis; the last figure provided by CAA as far as Egyptian evacuees were concerned was 46,777.

One air traffic controller interviewed over the telephone

by the Jordan Times said that on Sunday Sept. 2 alone, from Amman and Aqaba airports (by 10 a.m.) four aircraft had taken off and 17 more were expected for the day. "Traffic is heavy. Pilots sometimes come and go (to Egypt) four or five times a day."

How do controllers cope with all this traffic? "We are very busy indeed. Especially the approach area (when planes come in to land). But we do our best to help all these stranded people reach home safely."

The staff of air traffic controllers numbers 110 people. They work about seven to eight in a shift, cooperating closely. Thirty are trained to work with the radar system which "helps us tremendously."

Inevitably things happen. According to an air traffic controller, two planes under Cairo control entered Jordanian air space without the Egyptian controller giving information about the incoming traffic. The planes were brought at almost the same level and collision was averted only through the Jordanian controller's vigilance.

As an RJ official put it: "All our operators show a tremendous civic sense. They work and expect no thanks."

One operator was known to have worked 24 hours non-stop. This is against international regulation. When the officials on inspection asked him why he hadn't taken a break he simply answered that somebody else would have had to do the work and there was no time for rest.

The RJ official's comment needs no comment: "Everybody, every single operator works to the limit of human endurance and nobody complains. They deserve to be mentioned. The work round the clock to make extra flights possible. They constitute the spirit of Royal Jordanian."

Up in the sky a plane was flying taking home some more anxious, desperate passengers.

Queen inspects plans for camps in Azraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor visited Azraq Tuesday afternoon where she inspected the plans for two new evacuee camps to be established, equipped and managed by the Red Crescent Society in cooperation with the International League of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The two camps are planned to accommodate 50,000 people passing through Jordan, and relieve pressure on the overcrowded camps at the borders.

Approximately 547 tents will be grouped in the two camps in "clusters", of different nationalities, supplied with all the sanitary, water and food facilities required for the temporary stay.

Queen Noor discussed with representatives from the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, and the Higher Committee for the Welfare of Migrants the design of the camps which is intended to solve the many problems encountered at the existing

facilities at Shaalan one and two. The clusters will surround a "services area", where officials and representatives of the evacuees themselves will run the affairs of the camps.

Queen Noor, who is an honorary chairperson of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society was accompanied on her visit by Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura, President of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society and Mr. Salameh Hammad, Chairman of the Higher Committee for the Welfare of Migrants.

The transport of these evacuees to their home countries, via Amman, Aqaba or Ramtha, is at the top of Jordan's priorities at this juncture. Land transport is urgently needed for the journey inside Jordan to the country's gateways, while planes and ships are required to take the evacuees to their final destinations.

It is estimated that 3,000 tents and 300,000 blankets, in addition to no less than 300,000 main meals a day, are urgently needed.

NAF's projects can aid 2,700 families

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Shreideh said the amendments to the rehabilitation and national aid instructions of the National Aid Fund (NAF) system no. 36, 1986, gave more flexibility to NAF's activities and allowed more people to benefit from assistance it provides.

Shreideh said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the amendments had expanded the authorities of heads of the social development departments entitling them to overlook formalities.

According to the new instructions, families whose monthly income is less than JD 100 can apply for professional rehabilitation assistance, and can get emergency cash assistance ranging from JD 10 to JD 100 in exceptional emergency cases.

He said the new instructions had dropped conditions pertaining to stopping providing assistance to families whose eldest son reaches puberty age. It also dropped a condition calling for the necessity of proving the illness or inability of the eldest son in the family which gets assistance.

Shreideh said women workers in villages, according to the jobs they carry out, train girls in villages centres new skills, at the same time paying them according to production after it is sold in the market.

"This gives girls in villages the chance to contribute to the development of their society," he said.

The minister said the fund now deposits allocations for needy families in post offices all over the Kingdom so that beneficiaries can collect their money from the nearest post office.

He said NAF had stepped up work since the duration for conducting a study on the needy families was reduced to a maximum of 15 days to provide assistance to the needy family in the shortest possible time.

Shreideh called on directors of the social development departments, the administrative governors and parliamentarians to help NAF directors in providing NAF with lists of needy families or families willing to benefit from the ministry's rehabilitation programmes, taking into consideration that NAF is capable of providing family productive projects to more than 2,000 beneficiaries as well as monthly assistance to at least 2,700 families.

Contributions to Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and Aqaba Thermal Station staff have decided to contribute a day pay to the Iraqi children and another day pay to the Jordanian government to help it in its present efforts to cope with the problems currently facing the country.

Dughmi pledges ministry's readiness to serve citizens

ZARQA (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi said Tuesday the ministry was ready to cooperate with any municipality in the Kingdom in order to serve citizens.

In a meeting held at Zarqa Municipality, Dughmi expressed appreciation of the services presented by Zarqa Municipality and voiced confidence that the municipality could solve problems facing it.

The minister stressed the need to reform systems related to farming vegetables and marketing them since these systems are old and do not contribute to improving the farmers' incomes and the municipality's revenues.

Dughmi said the government had settled disputes over state land and said the government was facilitating payments by citizens, giving them enough time to settle problems related to land and exempting people from paying fines.

He also lauded the role of the former municipal committee which drew the general framework for the municipality's duties and pointed out to the necessity of referring several complicated appropriation cases to arbitration to be settled.

Dughmi called for taking a quick decision to remove brick



Abdul Karim Al Dughmi

factories to the new industrial zone in the city, not to license the zone's owners, and to close stores whose owners do not abide by the municipality's decisions.

The minister asked the municipality to continue asphalt paving streets and maintaining them, to finish the sewerage network project soon and to replace the old water pipes network with new one.

The minister stressed the importance of renewing the organisational structure of the city and drawing future plans to develop and modernise services.

Zarqa Mayor Yasser Al Omari reviewed at the meeting, which was attended by Zarqa governor and the ministry's secretary-general, the municipality's projects and plans as well as the most important problems facing the municipality.

Dughmi met with Zarqa Governor Mohammad Hussein Al Shobaki. Shobaki briefed Dughmi on the needs of the governorate's needs and on problems facing municipal councils.

Dughmi said the ministry would contribute JD 10,000 for connecting Al Qinya village to the national grid.

He pointed out that the Cabinet had formed a committee chaired by him and including several ministers, the director

CAEU concerned over Gulf situation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Tuesday expressed deep concern over the developments in the Gulf and their grave international consequences, and possibility of a military explosion in the region.

In a statement, issued after their meetings held at the permanent representatives level here, the council said that any military explosion would inevitably inflict great harm on all pan-Arab interests and wealth, given the scale of the military build-up in the region.

The council expressed fear the conflict would become internationalised thus offering a chance to foreign interference in the Arab affairs.

Communists urge East, West to give peace a chance

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Communist Party Tuesday called on the world nations to resist the evil plans aimed at waging a war, humiliating the Arab Nation and looting its oil resources.

"In a copy of an official press statement made available to the Jordan Times, the Communist Party voiced hope that the forthcoming Gorbachev-Bush summit will come up with concrete conclusions capable of striking hard at the warmongers and those gambling and tampering with the people's destiny."

The statement called on the two world leaders to give way to peaceful initiatives. The party expressed hope that the summit would give the Arab countries the chance to solve this dangerous crisis by peaceful means, thus serving the cause of peace in the region and the whole world.

The statement said that the United States, supported by its

allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) were massing their troops in Saudi Arabia and the Arab countries of the Gulf, and were still ringing the bells of war and threatening to spark it, paying no attention to the destruction it will inflict on the region.

"The United States, which deals with this volatile issue recklessly by resisting and obstructing any serious attempts to find political solutions to the present problems, is leading the world to a total destruction," the statement said.

The hostile measures taken by U.S. President George Bush, in complete harmony and coordination with the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, will inflict the greatest harm on our region, and will transform it into a theatre for military operations in which the most advanced weapons of destruction will be used," the statement added.

APPEAL

MILK & MEDICINE FOR THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ

An appeal directed to the human conscience all over the world, starting from Jordan. From the children of Jordan to fathers and mothers wherever they are.

The children of Jordan from the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) who are aware there is still a responsive human conscience appeal to all citizens in Jordan, to the local, Arab, regional and international organisations and institutions and the world child organisations and to leaders of the world's countries to end injustice against the children of Iraq who are threatened with being deprived of bread, milk and medicine.

The children of Jordan demand all to implement the principles of the international declaration on children's rights which provides for protecting and taking care of children under all circumstances, in all times and in the days of war and peace alike. The principles of the international declaration on the children's rights by which all the world abide by linking between these rights and the child's basic needs. The declaration's provisions under articles No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 guarantee the protection and welfare of children as well as social, food, and educational security and their right to grow up in healthy conditions in the times of war, peace and disasters.

The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk, food and medicine supplies for the children of Iraq.

This appeal comes on the eve of convening the world summit for children in which many leaders of the world's countries will take part to protect childhood.

As we head our call from the General Union of Voluntary Services in Jordan we appeal to fathers and mothers to respond favourably to this call. Let us share our food together.

Cash and in-kind donations are received at the following centres: The General Union of Voluntary Societies - Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 634001, 634009, 630398.

- | | |
|--|-------------|
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Donations are received daily until 7:00 p.m.

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Hurds, nooses and all

IN AN interview with BBC Radio broadcast Sunday night, the British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, said his visit to Yemen and Jordan among other Gulf countries was intended at tightening the noose around Iraq, in an effort to strangle the "aggressor" completely.

Mr. Hurd was a career diplomat before he became a politician and then Britain's chief diplomat. Judging by what he had to say there, it seems he has learned very little about the proper use of the diplomatic language and the historical lessons that should have guided his experience.

Hurd's all-too-well-known outspokenness may be a factor in what he told his BBC interviewer. But it cannot be the whole story. The fact of the matter is that Hurd has been trying to keep up with his war-mongering prime minister, who has been waging an unjustifiable crusade against Iraq, and he can hardly conjure up enough provocative words and thoughts to please her.

This is a problem for the two to sort out between them. What we should be concerned about here is the question of why Thatcher's Britain is attempting to outbid and upstage everybody in its unbelievable hostility towards Saddam Hussein personally and Iraq as a country. Is it because Thatcher is the self-appointed champion of human rights and international law? Or is it because Britain stands to lose her vital interests in the area if Iraq gets away with its invasion of Kuwait unpunished? Or are there other reasons for the "iron lady" to declare a holy war against the Iraqi president?

The Israelis have been occupying Arab territories for 23 years now. On a number of occasions, we have heard Thatcher and government blast Israel for its continued occupation and inhuman treatment of Palestinians there. But we have never heard Thatcher call for the trial of Yitzhak Shamir as an international criminal, even though the Israeli prime minister is still on the "wanted list" in Britain for his leading role in blowing up the King David Hotel in Jerusalem and the killing of tens of British servicemen in the 1948 blast. So, to say that by trying Saddam Hussein for crimes against humanity and by blockading Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait, and leaving Israel and Shamir alone for the moment, Thatcher is upholding international law is hypocritical at best. This is the kind of Western double standards which not only Saddam is fighting for, but every self-respecting Arab as well.

To answer the second question, experts do need to assess how British interests will be affected in the Gulf area if Iraq is not "punished for its aggression." Our guess is, though, that Britain would do much better if it tried to find a political settlement with which all can be satisfied, and her interests will be all the much safer if Thatcher's wisdom were commensurate with her age and political acumen proportionate to her length of term in office.

But if we are looking for other reasons why Mrs. T is beating the drums of war, let us just go back a moment in history to see what a renowned British expert on the Middle East, Ambassador Anthony Parsons, had to say about his government's attitude towards the Gulf crisis. In creating Kuwait and marking other borders for the Arabs, he told the Washington Post recently, "we protected our strategic interests rather successfully, but in doing so we didn't worry too much about people living there. We created a situation where people felt they had been wronged." The veteran diplomat, who spent 30 years in the Middle East, went on: "In the Iraqi subconscious, Kuwait is part of Basra province, and the bloody British took it away from them. Likewise, it is also in the subconscious of British leaders that Kuwait is part of Iraq, that Britain made the division and that it is Britain's moral responsibility to defend its decisions, wrong and right, especially when these decisions serve its strategic interests."

So much for Thatcher's rationale on the need to fight Saddam Hussein and his country. It does not hold water at all. As to Douglas Hurd, and the reason he gives for coming here, our advice is simple and clear: Don't tell us to tighten the noose around Iraq. Our people, who will be asked by your prime minister to do that, are against their will already shouldering the heavy burden of imposing sanctions against their Iraqi brothers and sisters and children. And we do not need imperialist mentalities to tell us what to do anyway.

When the House of Commons opens its debate on the Gulf Thursday, Mr. Hurd will hear loud cries from fellow MPs that Thatcher is going too far in her crusade against Iraq. Let us just tell him, a day earlier, that such cries can be heard in the minds and hearts of the Jordanian and Arab people at large.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA' daily Monday warned nations advocating an air blockade of Iraq. Any closure of the airways or airspace in the face of air piracy, the newspaper said. Any boycott of Iraqi airlines or Iraqi-bound air traffic is sure to entice reprisals on behalf of the Arabs, the paper warned. No one would be able to guarantee that airlines and aeroplanes of nations enforcing such a blockade would not be attacked. In any case, such a blockade would certainly result in increased travel cost. But those urging the air blockade are definitely pushing the Gulf crisis towards explosion. All those concerned with air safety must stand up to the advocates to avert further escalation of the conflict, the paper advised. Any interception of civil airlines is certainly an act of violation that is even worse than airplane hijacking in the past. During the past decade lots of efforts were made to ensure the safety of air transport, the paper said. Any attempt to disrupt this will ultimately result in disaster, the paper said. Reason must prevail over warmongering and all sane people must say no to air piracy, the paper said.

Economic Forum

Oil, power-madness and media-made hysteria

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

AFTER careful thinking and thorough pondering, the West, especially the American part of it, is gradually discovering that oil is not the real issue in the present confrontation in the Gulf and is thus recovering from the hysterical state of mind into which it was pushed by the mass media. There is no doubt that the West has very important oil interests in the Gulf, but they are not in jeopardy. No oil exporter, including Iraq, is denying its oil to USA, Germany or France and nobody ever will. Who does not, after all, want to sell his oil? What is oil for, anyway?

The other part of the hysterical argument that somebody in the East, President Saddam in this case, wants to dictate an unreasonably high price for oil and thus a crusade is urgently

needed to protect the vital interests of the West must also be dismissed as nonsense. "Even if Saddam would dictate to OPEC, he would be constrained by market forces. Raise the price too high, and the West would turn to alternative fuels. In the short term, a war would just raise the price of oil higher by shutting down production facilities and panicking the spot market." These are not my words or those of any Arab columnist or commentator. They are, believe it or not, the words and argument of Newsweek (Sept. 3, 1990, P. 10). And they carry the same message I tried to convey to the readers and foreign embassies in the four articles I published in this space after the eruption of the Kuwait crisis. In an article replete with insight

and penetrating analysis which appeared in the Wall Street Journal (Aug. 30), D.R. Henderson, the energy economist on President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, arrives at the same conclusion except that he adds that the costs USA would incur as a result of a higher oil price would still be lower than the costs of a war it wages in the Gulf.

So it is not oil and its undisturbed flow that makes Mr. Bush and Mrs. Thatcher mad. Remember when Arabs imposed an embargo on their oil exports to the West after 1973 war? The embargo was complete and painful and did cause an oil shock. Nevertheless, the West did not move a single military muscle at the time. Now behold that Western armada in the Gulf!

Another self-defeating

theory being promoted by Western media to justify the power-madness gripping Mr. Bush, Mrs. Thatcher and others is that USA is seeking to "knock out Saddam's nuclear and missile production facilities." This theory still does not make sense but only less of nonsense. If President Saddam sought, or seeks, to have a nuclear and missile capability, that will not be because he wants to wage a nuclear war against USA, as Newsweek suggests, or against Israel because he will be defeated in such an encounter with USA and its strategic ally, Israel.

Even when the Iraqi president said he would destroy half of Israel by chemical weapons he stated an unequivocal condition for that when he said he would strike if Iraq was attacked. However, the West and

Western media remembered only the threat and have been forgetting that condition.

If President Saddam is really after having mass destruction weapons, nuclear or otherwise, that will be because he feels his country is threatened. This is actually what His Majesty King Hussein has been trying to explain to the West. However, to knock Iraq out is not the solution, not least because it is a solution that breeds more problems than it remedies. It will, for example, disrupt oil flows and probably lead to destroying an unknown number of oil wells and fields, including all Kuwaiti ones. Now remember the other argument relating to defending Western vital oil interests exploited to justify initially the American massive military buildup!

The right solution is to make President Saddam feel that his country and its interests are not threatened. If that is done and the Palestinian grievances are justly addressed, Arabs will not need even conventional weapons and a sound and solid framework will be provided for a lasting Arab-American friendship. It can even be a very special and close relationship because the Arab World is the biggest producer and exporter of crude oil while the United States is the biggest consumer and importer of oil and both will remain so for a very long time. It is really sad to see such a great basis for co-operation and friendship overshadowed by media investigation, overreaction of the American president and influences of third parties such as Mrs. Thatcher and the Jewish lobby.

Gorbachev seeks summit to allay concerns about U.S. buildup in Gulf

By Bryan Brunley
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Mikhail S. Gorbachev's desire for a U.S.-Soviet summit next Sunday stems from concern about the buildup of U.S. troops near his borders and his desire to bolster his country's flagging superpower status.

Gorbachev says he is campaigning for a diplomatic rather than a military solution against Iraq not because his country has become weaker, but because it conforms to his "new thinking" — the approach that underlay arms agreements he has signed with the United States.

"Some people think we lose our prestige and reputation by advocating peaceful means to force an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, he told a news conference on Friday.

"It is not so. I think that everything will depend on whether we are successful in

using political measures," he said.

By pushing for a peaceful solution, said Angela Stent of Georgetown University in Washington, Gorbachev is calculating that the Soviets "will emerge from this with a stronger international position, even in the Middle East," where the Kremlin has lost ground to the United States over the past decade.

It remains unclear what led to the decision to hold a summit at a time when the Soviets seem to be sitting on the superpower sidelines.

The announcement came after a visit to Moscow last week by White House Chief of Staff John Sununu. Ostensibly, he was in town as part of a long-scheduled programme to impart U.S. management skills to the Soviet executive branch. Soviet cooperation with

Washington in the current crisis has reduced the dangers for U.S. President George Bush's administration, vastly diminishing the threat of a global war resulting from any conflict involving American troops in Saudi Arabia.

Overall, however, Gorbachev seems poised to gain more than Bush from the summit. He is swamped with political trouble at home, and he has come under public pressure from his military for guarantees that U.S. troops will be withdrawn from the Gulf once the crisis has passed.

The Soviet commander of the Warsaw Pact, Gen. Vladimir L. Lobov, was quoted last Thursday by the state news agency TASS as warning that the presence of so many U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, less than 1,200 kilometres from the Soviet border, could alter the strategic balance.

He said the buildup could derail talks in Vienna aimed at reducing troops stationed in Europe by the Warsaw Pact and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Belonogov told a parliamentary committee that because of the military buildup "the situation is becoming more and more explosive. And there are no guarantees that the United States will leave Saudi Arabia after the crisis is settled."

Gorbachev responded Friday that "I don't think that the U.S. leadership, after political solutions to this conflict have been found, will preserve," its force in Saudi Arabia.

"I believe that when a solution has been found, we will be able to provide guarantees," he said. "And I believe that the sooner we have a military detente after that, the more calm we all will feel."

Gorbachev and his generals clearly would feel better if Bush stated such guarantees publicly in Helsinki, where the Sept. 9 summit take place. The benefit may be greater for Gorbachev in the short term than in the long term, as the Soviets become increasingly preoccupied with their crumbling economy and ethnic unrest that is altering the shape of the nation.

The world has changed greatly since the Middle East war of 1973, when the White House ordered a nuclear alert, opening U.S. missile silos to demonstrate support for Israel against Arab nations, including Iraq, which were armed and backed by the Kremlin.

Since then, the Soviets have lost their empire in Eastern Europe, signed arms control pacts with the United States, mended fences with China and taken steps to open diplomatic relations with Israel.

"They are in retreat," said Adam Ulam of Harvard University. "If we had had this crisis four or five years ago, the

Soviets would have been prudent, but they would have been issuing grave warnings to the United States."

Although the Soviets are siding with the United States, their support has been lukewarm.

The Kremlin has backed a U.N. Security Council resolution that Iraq withdraw its invasion forces from Kuwait, stopped its own substantial arms shipments to the government of Saddam Hussein, and said it expects to lose \$880 million in trade for its actions.

But so far, the Soviets have balked at joining the American naval blockade against Iraq. And although the Kremlin halted its arms shipments to Iraq, it has not withdrawn 193 Soviet military specialists and 5,000 construction workers stationed there. It also pulled its diplomats out of Kuwait rather than keeping them in defiance of Saddam Hussein's order to leave.

Klibi resignation

(Continued from page 1)

Klibi to resign at this point in time....

An Arab diplomat recalled that Klibi had also opposed the choice of Cairo as the venue for the Aug. 30 Arab foreign ministers' meeting.

"Klibi fiercely opposed Cairo as the venue for the meeting," said the diplomat from Tunis. "He felt that all logic dictated that it should have been held in Tunis, and Cairo did not figure anywhere in the equation except perhaps as the host of the Arab summit whose resolutions the meeting was supposed to review." The diplomat explained, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. Traditionally all meetings of the Arab League Council — which groups the foreign ministers — have always been held at the headquarters of the Arab League; in Cairo until 1978 and then in Tunis. After it was moved in Tunis, Egypt's suspension from the league for its separate peace treaty with Israel.

"There were indeed technicalities involved," the diplomat conceded. "Conceded meetings could be held in any Arab country if circumstances warrant."

"However, in this case, there was no such mitigating circumstances to break tradition and have the ministers meet in Cairo," according to an Arab League official in Tunis. In any event, Klibi argued that the decision to convene the meeting should have the support of at least two-thirds of the 21 members of the league.

But Saudi Arabia and Egypt, "in their anxiety to turn the tide of events at the meeting, applied heavy pressure on Klibi and he had to convene the meeting in Cairo," he said. "It was as if Egypt was fighting a war and it had taken for granted that the headquarters of the league was already moved to Cairo."

Klibi, a veteran Tunisian diplomat who assumed the top job at the Arab League 10 years ago to succeed Mahmoud Riad of Egypt. "It is closer to the position of the eight league members who did not attend the Cairo meeting," according to the official. "But he faced the prospect of having to be a party to something he himself did not approve of and if he had resigned before the meeting it would have been interpreted as support for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait," the official said. "On the contrary, Klibi opposes the Iraq move in principle but, at the same time, was alarmed that the Arab League's general secretariat would not be able to play any constructive mediation role if it commits itself either way."

Another factor that contributed to Klibi's resignation, said the offi-

cial, is the "opposition of Klibi himself and Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali to moving the Arab League headquarters to Cairo to please Egypt." The official added, "But then Iraq was leading the campaign and the move appeared to have majority support until Aug. 2, when Iraq took over Kuwait, he noted. Baghdad has said it now does not believe Egypt is neutral in the Gulf crisis and that Iraq opposes the transfer of the League to Cairo."

To compound the situation, Klibi came under heavy attack from the Saudi and Syrian foreign ministers at the Cairo meeting on Aug. 30 according to sources who attended the talks. Farouq Al Sharaa, the Syrian minister, "accused Klibi of not issuing formal invitations to all Arab League members to attend that meeting," said one of the sources. Prince Sand Al Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, "accused Sharaa to further assail Klibi for what they saw as his 'takeover' approach to the idea of an Arab force to be deployed in Saudi Arabia," according to the source.

Klibi countered the first charge by pointing out "there was no sense in issuing formal invitations after eight members had notified the league headquarters that they would not be attending."

On the second charge, the Arab League secretary general pointed out that "it was not his business to lobby Arab states to ensure that they send troops to Saudi Arabia," according to the source. "My job is to execute the decisions of the Arab League but not to pressure any member state into doing something its sovereign government does not want to do," the source quoted the secretary-general as telling Sand and Sharaa. "Of course, this is a very well-founded argument but another, perhaps the most important, element was the fact that Klibi firmly believed that the Gulf crisis should be settled within an Arab framework without any foreign intervention and he was already disappointed with the Aug. 10 Arab summit's decision which endorsed the presence of the multi-national forces in Saudi Arabia," according to the source. "He believed it would undermine the basic concept of Arab unity and collective Arab action."

Among the Arab countries, only Egypt, Syria and Morocco sent forces to Saudi Arabia to deploy along with the American-led multi-national force there. This, in Klibi's view, "legitimizes the international intervention in an Arab affair and he (Klibi), in his capacity as secretary general of an organization which was essentially created to deal with Arab affairs and dis-

Mideast crisis helps forge new world of cooperating nations

By Donald M. Rothberg
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — To a degree unknown for generations, nations in what U.S. President George Bush calls the "post-postwar world" are working together in the interest of peace, not only in the Gulf but in bloodstained Cambodia as well.

Gone, at least for the moment, are the superpower rivalries that often blocked cooperation on regional conflicts during the cold war.

But the new world Bush talks about is sure to contain its own chills and frustrations for the United States. For example, a world in which international cooperation is the norm is one in which unilateral action is condemned.

How much has the world changed in the nine months since Bush's unilateral decision to remove Manuel Antonio Noriega from power in Panama?

Or since Ronald Reagan's decision to invade Grenada? Or Leonid Brezhnev's decision to send Soviet troops into Afghanistan?

Does the swift mobilising of an international force to block Saddam Hussein give reason to think prospects are heightened

for an international effort to finally bring peace to the Middle East?

"What is at stake here is truly significant," Bush said lately. He cited "the dependability of America's commitments to its friends and allies, the shape of the post-postwar world, opposition to aggression, the potential domination of the energy resources that are crucial to the entire world."

He spoke in the context of announcing that he was asking Japan, West Germany, Korea, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Free Kuwait for financial and energy resources to support the Gulf mobilisation.

That request opens another area of international involvement. Presumably, nations that agree to pay part of the cost will also want a role in the decision making.

At this time of widespread agreement on how to proceed in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, that wouldn't seem much of a problem. But suppose Saddam Hussein is able to hold out, resist the blockade and keep his troops in Kuwait indefinitely? Will

the world's unanimity continue?

Should Iraq yield to international pressure and withdraw from Kuwait, would a return to the status quo — a Kuwait governed by the emir and his family — be acceptable to all nations?

There also is the question of whether an Iraqi withdrawal would now be enough. Influential members of congress, such as Sen. Richard Lugar, a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, are urging Bush to hold out for Saddam's removal from power. They argue that as long as he is in control of Iraq, it would only be a matter of time before he struck again.

More broadly, will the response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait be the exception or the rule in the post-cold war world?

After all, the Gulf with its oil resources is a region so vital to so many of the world's industrial nations that it provided unique incentive for governments to unite behind an effort to roll back the Iraqis.

Less than 24 hours after Bush cited with obvious satisfaction, the number of nations cooperating with the United States in the Gulf, the Vietnamese-installed government of Cambodia announced its

willingness to accept a major U.N. role in moving that nation toward free elections.

While the announcement leaves Cambodia still a long way from an end to 20 years of violence, it does represent substantial progress toward an international solution.

For years, the world stood by, as Cambodia was ravaged by civil war and the savagery of the Khmer Rouge government.

The prospect of a return to power of the Khmer Rouge, the strongest of the three guerrilla groups now fighting the Vietnamese-installed government, may have provided enough incentive for the compromise that is leading to a United Nations role.

The Gulf and Cambodia were areas on which it was relatively easy to find international agreement.

The leaders who now are cooperating need only look back to the start of the Iran-Iraq war to see a different sort of response. There was no concerted effort to halt the fighting between two evenly matched nations widely viewed as pariahs. The only concern during the eight years that war dragged on was over whether it would cause an interruption of oil shipments.

Iraq denies PLO report

(Continued from page 1)

try their best to weaken the Iraqi army, destroy all non-conventional arms in his arsenal and stop him from using oil for political purposes, Abu Iyad said.

"He considers that his staying or withdrawing will change nothing in this American decision. And today that is his real problem."

"He is, in any case, open to a negotiated settlement," Abu Iyad said. "That is the new Iraqi position."

The PLO official said that should Iraq withdraw from Kuwait, the return of the royal family there should be discussed among Arabs.

Abu Iyad tried to clarify the PLO position on the Gulf crisis. It has been viewed as siding unconditionally with Iraq, some-

thing he denied.

"Contrary to what is said, we never agreed with the annexation of Kuwait and we have never stopped saying so to the Iraqi president..."

He said the PLO has refused to condemn Baghdad in part to facilitate a position of mediator in the crisis. "We are aligned with no one," he insisted.

"The consequences of a catastrophic war appear to us more serious than an eventual alteration of our image," he said.

In the PLO view, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz failed at the weekend because he "started at the end, that is to say with the hostages."

Abu Iyad and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat have held extensive talks with the Iraqi leader in an effort to defuse the Gulf crisis.

The PLO has put forward a peace plan which calls for a withdrawal of Iraqi and foreign troops from the region and installation of a United Nations and Arab force in Kuwait and elections there.

Asked what is not negotiable, Abu Iyad said: "Two things. The regions of Bubiya... and the return to power of Emir Jabar."

Saddam's biggest fear is that the United States will try to profit from the crisis and weaken him whether or not he withdraws his troops from Kuwait, Liberation quoted Abu Iyad as saying.

He fears the Americans will

'I used to play at war'

By Martin Langfield
Reuter

SAN SALVADOR—Peace may come to El Salvador, but psychologists say its brutal civil war will live on for years in the minds of children, former fighters and victims.

In the country's only state-run mental hospital in eastern San Salvador, the agony of 10 years of conflict is hauntingly expressed in a patient's therapeutic painting.

The work, in the colours of blood and mourning, depicts three black figures huddled together in the scarlet interior of a church.

"We all have the war within us," Chief Resident psychiatrist Ricardo Mendez told a visitor who viewed the painting. "One hundred per cent of Salvadoreans have been affected by the war to one degree or another."

What is worse, civil and military psychologists say, is that if United Nations-mediated peace talks currently under way succeed in ending the war, El Salvador faces a surge of mental disorders, common violence and displacement.

"Peace will generate even more pathology," Mendez told Reuters in an interview.

"The people who have the strongest aggressive, antisocial tendencies are those who most enroll as guerrillas, as soldiers," he said. "They practically got hooked on this war to pour out their aggression."

"What will happen when peace comes? If people remain armed, there will be mass murders," Isabel de Pocasangre, a psychiatrist working with amputees at San Salvador's military hospital, echoed Mendez's fears.

"It would seem we can see the psychological problems now. But we will see a lot more after the war."

Pocasangre said combatants from both the armed forces and the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front guerrilla movement would need to undergo re-adaptation programmes if the war wound down.

"In the United States one of the big problems they have is the Vietnam veterans," she said. "Some of those people are in constant therapy. I think... we will do the same thing here."

Both doctors said no steps had yet been taken to set up such rehabilitation programmes.

El Salvador's decade of conflict has claimed some 75,000 lives, most of them civilians, leaving an ever-widening circle of shattered families, orphaned children and displaced or homeless people.

The war also weighs heavily on the general population who have no direct experience of the war, Pocasangre said.

"We live with a great sense of apprehension. Danger is around the corner, physical danger, emotional danger... the war has done a lot of damage."

Many Salvadoreans recount experiences of drunken or drugged soldiers abusing the civilian population, provoking fights while armed, even lobbing hand grenades into packed dance halls.

The rebels, too, admit to psychological problems among their ranks, although their isolation in the highlands and mountains makes evidence harder to gather.

"War is an abnormal state," Mariana, a 27-year-old guerrilla, said in the Eastern rebel stronghold of Perquin. "You make a great effort not to wind up in an abnormal state yourself."

Both rebel and army spokesmen say their forces have had remarkably few cases of mental breakdown considering the often brutal nature of the war.

But psychologists say the trauma of the conflict will live on for years in the minds of those too young to have known any other life.

"Javier," a 21-year-old rebel, told Reuter he had learned to kill around the time of his 14th birthday, shortly after joining the guerrillas.

"It's traumatic at first, but you get used to it," he said. Cesar Vielman Joya Martinez, an army deserter now in the United States, who says he took part in military-sanctioned "death squad" killings, cited nightmares about his activities as one of the reasons he deserted and denounced his superiors, according to U.S. media reports.

"Many people get used to the blood and violence," Mendez said. "But the coldness with which things are sometimes done is striking."

Pocasangre, speaking of underage rebel fighters, agreed.

"They become brutalised. They get colder. Such a loss of values makes them a danger at any moment."

She also said she had noticed many symptoms of guilt among soldiers, with whom she has dealt.

Most work will have to be done, the psychologists said, with the children who have known nothing but war.

"I used to play at war, but we were inspired by cowboy movies," Mendez said. "Now they talk about tanks, about bazookas, machine-guns and bombings."

"They are the reflection of what is happening around them in El Salvador."

Freedom more valuable than money for E. Germans

By Nao Nakanishi
Reuter

HAMBURG, West Germany — Three box-like container ships on a river behind a fish factory are home to about 1,000 East Germans who have arrived in Hamburg this year.

Port city, unable to provide enough housing even for its 1.6 million residents, resorted to the ships as a temporary measure last October when thousands of East Germans began pouring in as their country's Communist government collapsed.

Now, it is resigned to keeping them for at least another two years, possibly five. Hamburg is also building container villages on land to absorb the never-ending flow of people.

"Everybody thought the number of East Germans coming in would decrease after their election in March," said Brigitte Eberle, a spokeswoman for the Hamburg Social Affairs Office.

"But during the first half of this year, about 5,000 arrived here from East Germany alone. Another 5,000 have come from other East European countries," she said.

The virtual collapse of East Germany's economy since it merged with West Germany's on July 1 has prompted both Bonn and East Berlin to bring forward the date of political unity to Oct. 3 from December.

Conditions on board the three vessels — the Kasamarina, Bibby Endeavour and Flotiel Europa — are far from ideal.

Four people are packed into each 20-square-metre room. They have no separate kitchens or sitting rooms and their children

play in the stair-wells. But however cramped conditions on the ships may be, residents say things are still better than they were in their former homeland.

"I didn't like anything in East Germany — the politics or the social system. That's why I left (East) Berlin," said a truck driver, watching television in his cabin on a recent afternoon. "It'll take a while before they have rebuilt society."

Heads of East German and ethnic German refugee households receive 1,000 marks (\$650) a month from the West German government.

Loth Hartenburger, a former East German railway official, has lived on the Kasamarina since May, earning some additional money as a part-time shop worker.

"There's no problem in getting a job," he says. "But it's impossible to find an apartment, a base to start up a new life."

However, Eberle from the Social Affairs Office told Reuters most people had no jobs and suffered from constant boredom. Fights frequently broke out between young men who spent their days drinking beer.

"They start drinking when they find it's not as easy as they had expected," she said. "It's different here from a Communist country where the government took care of everything. You've got to organise things on your own."

A West German official on board the Kasamarina said: "East Germans are big children. You have to take them by the hand and show them what to do. Some

have already gone home as it became too much to do everything by themselves."

Feeling among many West Germans who once welcomed their brothers and sisters with open arms has turned sour as they see the newcomers getting cash from the Bonn government.

"They can't make a revolution and then escape. Instead, they should pull themselves together to reconstruct their country," said a West German woman, who declined to be named. "We have worked hard for 40 years to reach this standard."

West German industry, which eagerly snapped up the first East Germans arriving here, is now backing off because of the lack of familiarity of the newcomers with Western technology.

Industrialists say factory workers who spent much of their working day in East Germany idle because of lack of materials find it difficult to get used to working full seven- or eight-hour shifts.

However, Eberle said: "East German willing to roll up their sleeves in and work and who are determined to achieve something here seem to have gained a foothold. We don't see them any more."

Sylvia Rump, a young mother of two small children from East Berlin, values the freer atmosphere of West Germany after a lifetime in a rigidly orthodox Communist state.

"Living conditions here are terrible, but my place in the East was worse. Here, I can say what I want without worrying somebody might be listening. The whole stress I had in the East has disappeared."

Desire to travel doesn't mean you can leave

By Alison Smale
The Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria — Georgi Panchev and thousands of other Bulgarians have spent hours this summer outside the Greek consulate, waiting in vain for travel visas.

Tens of thousands of East Europeans have discovered their new freedom to travel may not mean other people want them to visit.

"If they'd just put up a sign saying, 'we don't take any more Bulgarians,' then I wouldn't stand here and wait," Panchev, 42, said as a brusque guard turned a couple away from the consulate door.

"A person loses all his hope waiting here," Todor Dishkov said. "We're waiting like beggars for something to happen."

An informal survey of conditions for Western countries, which used to complain about Communist restrictions on foreign travel, suggests, Britain, Greece and the United States lead the list of difficult destinations.

Britain, for example, requires exhaustive proof of financial resources and possession of a return ticket.

Travel restrictions vary widely. Hungarians and Czechoslovaks need no visas for most of Western Europe, but Bulgarians, Romanians and Poles face waits of weeks or months for approval.

Western governments increasingly fear the power East Europeans simply won't return home.

Romanians typically have waited 40-60 days for the 30,000 visas the Italian consulate in

Bucharest issued the last seven months.

Czechoslovaks simply board an overnight tour bus, see Venice by day and ride home the next night.

That exhausting form of tourism illustrates the second difficulty for East Europeans: lack of Western money to spend.

Nearly all East European countries have revised official exchange rates to favour Western visitors, but popular demand for dollars or marks remains so high that black markets still thrive.

The shortage of hard currency, lure of Western consumer luxury and comparatively good wages paid in the West for even menial jobs tempt many East Europeans to work at least part of the time while abroad.

West Germany and the United States, with its large Polish community, are favourite destinations for Poles seeking work that often pays more in a month than they make at home in a year.

University graduates in Czechoslovakia, where the Communists made dissident intellectuals into coal-stokers, often go to West Germany to earn marks for a new car, furniture or video recorder.

Of the estimated 50,000 Bulgarians visiting Greece before it slowed the visa process, some helped harvest olives for a few days.

Such arrangements, officially illegal, may not disturb Western employers, Eastern workers or governments very much. Communism made finagling a way of life in Eastern Europe and it was bound to move West when the iron curtain fell.

Regular bending of the rules does worry authorities, however.

Poles have earned a reputation throughout Europe as peddlers and smugglers, thanks mainly to a few "businessmen" who travel regularly to Berlin or Vienna.

Berlin put visa restrictions on Poles at the beginning of July. In an effort to avert curbs by Austria, the only Western nation that does not require visas of its citizens, Poland imposed strict customs controls and invited the Austrians to help enforce them.

It is harder to stop an educated East European who wants to leave his country for good. The "brain drain" is a particular problem for Bulgaria and Romania, where shattered economies offer little hope of riches or satisfaction.

Bulgaria's passport office said more than 10 per cent of the 44,105 people with higher education who went abroad from January to July did not return. Most were under age 40.

With a rapidly aging population of just under 9 million, Bulgaria cannot afford such a loss of young talent.

One-quarter of the 230,000 ethnic Germans in Romania's Transylvania region have emigrated since free travel became possible in January.

Virginia Young, U.S. consul general in Bucharest, estimates about one-third of the 1.5 million Romanians who have received passports this year would like to live in America.

Most lack any of the qualifications for obtaining a visa. Interviews on emigration requests are backed up to November 1991 for lack of space and staff.

(Continued from page 1)

huge backlogs are cleared, officials said. However, the basic needs of those who have to stay in the camps set up near the border awaiting their turn after their compatriots who are already in Amman are flown home are more pressing than the airlift itself, relief officials pointed out.

According to U.N. officials, the international response to Jordan's appeal for humanitarian aid for the refugees has been swift so far, but Prince Hassan said Tuesday the situation was critical and that much remained to be done.

"The situation, critical as it is, may only be the tip of an iceberg," he told the press conference. The number of refugees in Iraq and Kuwait is around two million persons, a large number of whom may find themselves stranded in Jordan, Prince Hassan pointed out.

The International Organisation for Immigration (IOI) has launched a massive airlift of refugees to their respective countries, most of which are wholly unable to provide passage for their nationals or finance their stay in Jordan.

In the first stage of the \$50 million airlift, 9,000 Sri Lankans and Bangladeshis will be flown home in the next two days, and more efforts are

Ruweished camp

being committed to charter additional aircraft from various airlines, according to the director of the department of operations of the IOI, Dr. R.K. Jemmy.

At a crisis meeting held in Geneva Tuesday, IOI Director-General James Purcell said that the airlift operation would need another \$23 million to finance the evacuation of those nationals whose countries are too poor to pay for their nationals' repatriation.

Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Pakistan are the countries worst hit by the refugee problem with tens of thousands of their nationals being stranded in Jordan, according to Purcell.

Amid the international flurry, the evacuees put up at the two desert camps near Al Ruweished continue to suffer from scorching heat during the day, chilling cold during the night and "intolerable agony" in between, a senior relief official told the Jordan Times.

"Some of them even have developed suicidal tendencies," the official said. "It is not surprising, given the abysmal conditions they are living

in." A copy of a memorandum signed by four, who were said to be representatives of the 35,000 evacuees at Shaalan Two, rejected relief efforts exerted by international agencies, particularly the Red Cross, and appealed to their embassies to "visit us and see what the situation here."

According to Salameh Hamad, secretary-general of the Interior Ministry and chairman of a national committee supervising the evacuation process, "the people at the camps (Shaalan one and two) need at least another 3,000 tents and other basic facilities which Jordan alone cannot provide."

Following is the full text of the Regent's statement at Tuesday's press conference: "While the attention of the world is rightly focused on the Iraqi-Kuwait crisis — with particular emphasis on the fate of Western nationals held in Iraq — a human tragedy of the widest dimension has received but scant attention. I refer of course to the influx of tens of thousands of third state nationals from Iraq and Kuwait

into Jordan. As of yesterday (Sept. 3, 1990) over 420,000 persons entered into Jordan, of whom approximately 190,000 (mostly Egyptians, Yemenis and Sudanese) subsequently left the country, while approximately 100,000 remain in Jordan.

As the down-trodden of the earth, the plight of those persons, mostly nationals of the countries of the Indian sub-continent and of the Philippines and Thailand, has evoked only the faintest of responses from the world community, and from a world press more interested in war scenarios than in humanitarian relief. The humanitarian duty of caring for these people has fallen mainly on Jordan, and we shall not shrink from doing what the dictates of our conscience demand even though, as the whole world knows, this fall-out of the Iraqi-Kuwait crisis could not have come at a worse time for Jordan, whose citizens, through no fault of their own or of their country, have to carry the main brunt of sanctions directed against Iraq.

Although, as I indicated earlier, my country shall not shrink from extending all the humanitarian assistance that we can afford, even at the risk of spreading thin our resources, the situation may soon become critical.

While we are grateful for the assistance given to persons stranded in Jordan, both from governmental and non-governmental agencies and bilaterally, and while we have nothing but admiration for the volunteers who pioneered relief efforts, it is obvious that much is needed and much remains to be done.

We should not forget that the situation, critical as it is, may be only the tip of the iceberg. The number of foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait is, according to various estimates, around two million persons, a large number of whom may find themselves stranded in Jordan. This will be simply beyond the capacity of a small country like Jordan to handle.

It is incumbent on the countries of which those now stranded in Jordan are nationals to contribute immediately and effectively towards finding means of transport for their nationals back home. It is equally incumbent on states and international organisations to contribute food, medicine and other necessary amenities. It is also important that relief work be coordinated. Let me therefore express the hope that this message will receive the attention it deserves and that everyone will assume their humanitarian responsibilities.

King plans new mission

(Continued from page 1)

The meeting on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, Qasem

and the Jordanian ambassador to Italy. The talks were attended on the Italian side by the foreign minister and a number of senior Italian officials.

Westerners arrive from Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

"We will get this to the really desperate areas and this kind of action that you've done is a tremendous help," the Queen added.

Branson, a British pop tycoon, said he had brought the relief supplies after an urgent appeal from Queen Noor.

"I received a call from Queen Noor on Sunday night saying they had... a potentially catastrophic problem in Jordan," Branson told reporters.

"She asked for something to be done quickly before it was too late. This flight is only a gesture and I hope there will be more. What we are doing is in a broader sense is organising charter flights and working with the United Nations," he added.

Queen Noor said she was grateful for support given to Jordan.

"The situation in the camps is very serious for thousands of people. It is very important there is an international awareness of the magnitude of the problem," she said.

A British embassy official said 45 Britons were expected on the third flight and a U.S. embassy spokesman said there would also be a number of Americans on the plane, but added that he was not sure how many.

The first flight, which landed at Queen Alia International Airport at 1600 local time (1300 GMT), brought 170 foreigners, mostly Arabs and Asians.

There was one Englishwoman among them, Georgina Rose, with her two children.

The second plane, which landed two hours later, had 135 West Germans, plus some New Zealanders, Irishmen and some other Western nationals, according to airport officials.

Moscow proposes conference

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Israel would consider participating in the Soviet-proposed conference on the Gulf crisis if it was formally asked.

His remark appeared to be a crack in Israel's longstanding refusal to attend any international talks on the Middle East, but Shamir immediately reiterated the Israeli refusal to discuss the Palestinian question at such a forum.

"On the subject of the 'Persian' Gulf, yes," he said, adding that Israel would not be pressed into addressing the Palestinian question at such a conference.

Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union believed non-military means of solving the Gulf crisis should take priority.

"But the course towards a peaceful settlement should in no way imply that the aggressor has nothing to fear."

U.S. sees 'unity'

The White House said Tuesday it expected the United States and the Soviet Union to forge ever stronger unified opposition to Iraq in the Gulf crisis when Bush and Gorbachev meet in Helsinki Sunday.

"It is somewhat ironic that the prospect of war is forging a new blueprint for world peace," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said at a news briefing in which he praised Soviet support for the multinational effort to force Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait.

Graf sends Capriati back to school

Fahd pledges to help world avert oil crisis

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has promised a U.S. congressional group that his nation will do its utmost to help the world avert any oil crisis due to the Gulf confrontation.

"We want to contribute to make the world as happy as much as we can do and especially with respect to oil," said the Saudi monarch to the group of U.S. House and Senate representatives he received in the Saudi Red Sea port city of Jeddah Sunday.

His statements were distributed by the official Saudi Press Agency a day later.

"We know fully well that there are major industrial countries that need the petroleum supplies and we also know that countries with limited income would suffer inflation if oil prices soared," said the King, according to the press agency.

"Therefore we shall do what we can for oil so as not to create a problem for the world in a commodity that is a vital issue for the daily life of people," he said.

Fahd expressed hope that other oil-producing states will do the

same. Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil exporter.

Last week in Vienna, Saudi Arabia and other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed to suspend quota restrictions to allow production to rise to 22.49 million barrels per day, offsetting the shortfall created by the Gulf crisis.

The shortfall, basically four million barrels that Iraq and Kuwait had exported, had sent oil prices soaring beyond the \$21 per barrel level that OPEC had set for the rest of the year before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), a Nicosia-based newsletter with close ties to Saudi Arabia's oil ministry, said the kingdom will gradually boost its daily production by 2.27 million barrels above its current OPEC-prescribed level of 5.38 million barrels per day.

MEES estimated that OPEC production would reach 22.1 million barrels a day this month, rising to 23.1 million barrels daily by the end of the year.

Philippines' schools to save energy

MANILA (AP) — Public and private schools went on a four-day week Monday to save energy during the Gulf crisis.

The cabinet ordered all elementary and high schools to close Fridays until Oct. 31 in an energy-saving measure. Officials said the four-day schoolweek could be extended depending on the situation next month.

The Philippines relied heavily on oil from Kuwait and Iraq before the Aug. 2 Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and the subsequent worldwide embargo on Iraqi oil.

Iranian economy recovers

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's economy has staged a strong recovery since the end of the Gulf war with Iraq, with state revenues rising sharply, output growing and the budget deficit falling, according to a report.

Economy and Finance Minister Morteza Nourbakhsh said in a report to the Majlis (parliament) that gross domestic product grew two per cent in the year ended March 21 — the first rise for several years.

Government revenues rose 50 per cent in the year — the first half year since the Gulf war ceasefire in August 1988 — and had continued rising at the same rate in the first four months of the current year. The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted him as saying.

"The budget deficit has sharply decreased and this year it is expected to fall far below that set by the Majlis, thus making the government free from borrowing from the central bank," Nourbakhsh said.

IRNA said the report, published in the daily newspaper Kayhan, said output of large industrial units had risen by 4.8 per cent in the past nine months.

Production of staple crops had also risen sharply, with government purchases of surplus wheat from farmers this year already at 1.9 million tonnes, 50 per cent higher than last year and more than double the 1988-89 level.

Iranian organisations had opened letters of credit totalling \$2.55 billion since March for key projects including oil refineries and storage facilities and petrochemical complexes, it said.

Turnover on the Tehran stock exchange totalled a record 22.2 billion riyals (\$300 million) in the past 12 months — almost three times the pre-war high of eight billion riyals (\$114 million) in 1978, it added.

Tax revenues since March were showing a 35 per cent annual growth compared with a budgeted increase of 26.4 per cent, IRNA, received in Cyprus, added.

Cuba draws energy-saving programme

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's sugar ministry has drawn up energy-saving measures for the country's more than 150 sugar mills in an effort to cut their fuel consumption without affecting production during the next harvest, state media has reported.

The measures are part of nationwide fuel restrictions announced by the communist government recently to offset a two million tonne shortfall in Soviet oil shipments to the island.

The ministry proposed that some plants should produce "B" type refined sugar without using additional products for decoloration. This would save a considerable amount of fuel, the workers' newspaper Trabajadores said.

Another suggestion was to use emulsified diesel fuel, or other fuel mixtures in which the oil content was reduced, to cut back consumption.

Most of Cuba's sugar mills burn "bagazo" cane waste to power their grinding and production processes.

Iraq suspends repayment of massive foreign debt

NICOSIA, Cyprus (Agencies) — Iraq Monday suspended repayment of the country's massive foreign debt in response to the United Nations trade embargo, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

INA quoted Mohammed Mahdi Saleh, the acting minister of commerce and finance, as saying the debt suspension would have extremely adverse effects on countries and companies "incapable of withstanding the current situation."

He was referring to the economic difficulties faced by poorer countries who count on trade with Iraq for generating critical foreign exchange.

"Compensation is not going to be a solution for the economic crisis," Saleh was quoted as saying, "because it is temporary, limited and ineffectual for dealing with the losses suffered by these countries... dragged into the aggressive schemes of the U.S. administration."

The news agency said Iraq had paid \$5.5 billion on its debt in the first half of this year.

The country's outstanding debt has been conservatively estimated at \$30 to \$35 billion, most of it owed to the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, West Germany and Japan for purchases of weapons, technology and food.

The minister, a U.S.-educated economist, said the impact of the crisis on the world economy was

indicated by U.S. moves to obtain help in paying for its massive Gulf deployment.

Meanwhile, Iraq has lost around \$2.1 billion in oil revenue in the month since its takeover of Kuwait prompted a United Nations trade ban.

"No oil has left Iraq since the embargo," an oil industry executive in the Gulf said. "The blockade is working well."

Baghdad has also gained no advantage from grabbing Kuwaiti fields whose oil could have earned more than \$1 billion last month. Not a drop was sold, Gulf industry sources said.

Industry sources said Iraq's crude oil production has fallen to 40,000 barrels per day — enough to meet domestic needs — from around 3.1 million barrels per day (b/d) in July.

Exports, around 2.7 million b/d before the takeover, stopped when Baghdad was denied the use of its three major outlets.

A 1.5 million b/d pipeline through Turkey, a 900,000 b/d pipeline across Saudi Arabia and the tanker route through the Gulf were all closed.

Oil traders and shipping executives in the Gulf said oil companies and most countries were complying with the trade ban.

British, French and the U.S. warships in the Gulf and Red Sea make the embargo leak-proof.

"They question almost every ship," said a shipping executive who monitors marine radio in the

Gulf said. "They have total control of the Gulf."

Revenue losses for both Iraq and Kuwait are estimated on the basis of current market prices, which jumped over 50 per cent on fears of a disruption of Gulf supplies and the embargo on more than four million b/d of Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude.

The Gulf crisis has sent crude oil above the \$25 a barrel price Iraq sought back in mid-July when it was pressing Kuwait and other OPEC members for stricter limits on production.

But Baghdad has had to watch while other OPEC members raised their prices and boosted production to fill the Gulf crisis gap.

Dubai crude, the Middle East benchmark peaked 10 days ago above \$31 a barrel and was on sale in Tokyo Tuesday for \$26.70, well above the pre-invasion price of \$18.

Oil and shipping sources said as long as Western navies patrol the Gulf no buyer or shipowner would dare to load from Iraq's Mina Al Bakr terminal, which formerly handled around 300,000 b/d. Nor has Iraq so far tried to load its own tankers at Al Bakr, they said.

The only incident seen as a breach of the ban was when the Iraqi tanker Ain Zalah discharged part of its cargo at Yemen's Aden refinery. Unloading stopped after an outcry abroad.

Yeltsin proposes scrapping Soviet Union for economic association

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian legislators Tuesday loitered at their parliament building in hopes of snaring a copy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's three-volume proposal for transforming the Soviet Union into an economic and defence association.

The plan allows the central Soviet government run by Mikhail Gorbachev to retain only powers delegated to it by the 15 Soviet republics, according to a copy seen by the Associated Press.

The republics would become sovereign in most matters, running their own economies.

The Kremlin would lose the power to levy taxes and would have to rely on dues from the republics. But the central government would retain some responsibility for defence, strengthening the currency and disaster relief.

Legislator Bella Denisenko of the Kuzbass coal region said she favoured the plan because it replaces the strict centralised Soviet government with links between each of the republics.

But Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silaev said planners were forced to retain some functions for a central authority of the economic union.

"We cannot afford our own

currency, customs and borders," Silaev said in introducing the plan Monday.

If approved by the Russian republic's parliament on schedule Sept. 11, the national legislature would be under considerable pressure to follow suit, as it convenes Sept. 10. The Russian Republic contains half the Soviet Union's people and three-quar-

ters of its land.

"Russia gives the impulse for change to the entire country," Yeltsin told his legislature Monday. "The centre can no longer ignore this and discard everything done by us."

The changes would allow each republic to institute its own economic reforms. Yeltsin's plan calls for the Russian to use that freedom to legalise private land and selling off state-owned business beginning this year. State-owned apartments and residential lots would be given away to try to solve critical shortages of food and housing.

Israel expects debt write-off from America

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel expects the United States to cancel a \$4.5 billion debt after President George Bush proposed forgiving \$7.1 billion owed by Egypt, Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai said Monday.

Asked if Israel felt Washington should make a reciprocal gesture towards its closest Middle East ally and cancel the debt, Modai told reporters:

"Oh, definitely. I don't see how they can avoid it. Egypt is getting the aid because of Israel, since Camp David."

He was referring to the 1978 accord that led to a 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt and made them the two largest recipients of U.S. aid. Israel annually receives \$3 billion and Egypt gets \$2.3 billion from Washington.

Bush said Saturday he plans to recommend to Congress that Egypt's military debt to the United States be forgiven to help it overcome grave financial problems worsened by the Gulf crisis. Egypt has steadfastly backed Washington in the crisis.

"Each time there was a change in the allowance or rate we received, Egypt received a parallel sum. It doesn't make any sense that now that Egypt gets a waiver, Israel will stay out of it. It's ridiculous," Modai said.

He said he would request the

write-off in talks with U.S. Treasury officials in Washington later this month. Israel owed the U.S. government \$4.5 billion at the end of March.

Modai's statement coincided with an Israeli request that Washington advance payment of \$1.8 billion in annual military aid to early next year. Israel has been pressing to increase its annual military grants.

Israel, fearing its regional military dominance would be threatened by U.S. arms shipments to Saudi Arabia, has asked Washington to offset these sales by sending Israel more weapons, mainly for the air force.

The New York Times reported the United States would reassure Israel by shipping it \$11 billion worth of weapons, but Israeli officials said details of the package had yet to be finalised.

Modai, has been working on an economic programme to spur growth, reduce inflation and produce jobs for Soviet Jewish immigrants flooding Israel. He said Monday he would delay presenting the plan to study further the effects of the immigration.

Nearly 83,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in Israel this year, and treasury officials place a \$20 billion price tag on absorbing the one million Soviet Jews expected over the next five years.

Iraq starts laying water pipeline to Kuwaiti strip

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Tuesday that work has started to build a \$30 million water pipeline to a strip of northern Kuwait detached from the new Iraqi province last week, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

It said the project, which would be completed in 25 days, involves laying a 16 inch (6.3 cm), 100 kilometres pipeline to carry potable water to the strip from the Shatt Al Arab confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to the strip.

Baghdad-based political analysts believe that Al Mithla district, annexed last week to the southern Iraqi province of Basra, stretches about 15 kilometres deep inside Kuwait.

"This is one of the vital projects to be completed by the end of this month... to bring potable water to this area which was cut out from the land of Mesopotamia (Iraq) by the colonialists," INA said.

It said the project would cost more than \$30 million and also involves the construction of 40 storage tanks, each with a capacity of 224 cubic metres (7,910 cubic feet), two pumping stations and 10 outlets to load water tanker-trucks.

Soviets refuse to supply E. Europe with more oil

WARSAW (R) — East European countries have failed to persuade Moscow to make up for a steep fall in Soviet oil supplies to cushion them from dearer world crude prices, a Polish official said Tuesday.

Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Poland asked the Soviet Union at a meeting in Warsaw last week to raise supply in the final quarter of this year to make up for cuts in the first nine months, but the official said Moscow refused.

"The outcome is that the quantities which are proposed to be supplied in the fourth quarter are below the contract commitments," he said. "Nobody was too happy about that, to put it mildly."

East European countries depend almost totally on imported crude and rely heavily on supplies from the Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer.

The official said bilateral negotiations would continue and one possibility was that the Soviet Union might deliver more crude in the final quarter if its partners agreed to pay in hard currency.

"Despite the cutback of the commitment they might offer a little bit more for payment in

hard currency... this is one of the possibilities but of course it is too early for me to be absolutely firm whether it will materialise or not," he said.

East European countries currently pay for Soviet oil in non-convertible roubles but are due to start paying in hard currency from next year. The switch will be painful because of sharply higher world prices resulting from the Gulf crisis.

Soviet oil deliveries to Poland in the first six months of 1990 totalled 5.39 million tonnes — 23 per cent below the contracted level. The official said the shortfall by the end of August was roughly the same.

"We believe the cut is the same for all the countries," he said. Hungary said in July that Soviet oil supplies would be 30 per cent lower than expected this year, while Czechoslovakia said supplies would be down a third in July and August.

Hungary said Monday it was spending an extra \$100 million to \$170 million on buying crude oil and petrol on the world market to make up for the Soviet shortfall.

The Polish official said Moscow told the other four countries the shortfalls were due to domestic problems of supply and demand.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES				
Tuesday, September 4, 1990				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	659.0	663.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	457.4 460.1
Pound Sterling	1238.0	1242.4	Dutch guilder	368.9 371.1
Deutschemark	418.6	418.1	Swedish crown	113.5 114.2
Swiss franc	682.4	681.4	Italian lire (for 100)	36.0 36.3
French franc	124.0	124.7	Belgian franc (for 10)	202.6 203.8

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES				
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.				
	One Sterling	1.8805/15	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar		1.1545/55	Canadian dollar	
		1.5765/75	Deutschemark	
		1.7765/75	Dutch guilder	
		1.3120/30	Swiss franc	
		32.46/51	Belgian franc	
		5.2820/70	French franc	
		1177/1178	Italian lire	
		143.60/70	Japanese yen	
		5.7895/945	Swedish crown	
		6.0910/60	Norwegian crowns	
		6.0985/945	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold		384.40/90	U.S. dollars	

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

Indiana Jones in TEMPLE OF DOOM

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

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CONCORD

Dured Lahham Madeline Tabar in 1-KAFROUN 3:30, 6:45, 8:45 P.M. 2-SENIOR WEEK 5:15, 10:45 p.m.

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Nabelah Ubeld, Mahmoud Abdul Aziz & Sharhan in THE VIRGIN AND THE WHITE HAIR

Performances: 12:30, 2:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

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FATAL ATTRACTION

Performances: 12:30, 3:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45

31 killed in attack on ANC supporters in hostel

Police reportedly join in the killings

SEBOKENG, South Africa (R) — At least 31 people were killed when Zulu vigilantes backed by South African forces attacked a hostel housing supporters of black leader Nelson Mandela overnight, residents said Tuesday.

At least nine of the victims in the attack in Sebokeng township, south of Johannesburg, were killed by South African government troops, local residents said.

Witnesses said Zulu supporting the conservative Inkatha Freedom Party were ferried by security forces to the hostel mainly occupied by Xhosa supporters of Mandela's African National Congress (ANC). South Africa's main black opposition group.

The Inkatha vigilantes backed and bludgeoned to death 22 people inside the hostel, while soldiers outside opened fire indiscriminately at a clergyman and residents tried to negotiate peace with police, local residents said.

"The police vehicles ran over dead and dying people," said Father Lord McCannel of the Church of God in neighbouring Evaton.

There was no immediate confirmation of the incident from police or army officials.

Mandela, who was briefed on the overnight violence early Tuesday, immediately left for

Sebokeng to quell tension. More than 500 people have died in a month of warring between ANC and Inkatha factions in townships around Johannesburg.

In a separate bid to bring peace to South Africa's volatile townships, President F.W. de Klerk made his first official tour of Soweto, the country's largest township, since taking office last year.

In violence in other black urban areas, a further four people were killed Monday night in the townships of Vosloorus and Katlehong, east of Johannesburg, a police spokesman said.

The attack on the Sebokeng hostel seemed certain to fuel the already strident allegations of police support for Inkatha in its township war against the more radical, anti-apartheid ANC.

De Klerk Sunday said he had ordered an investigation into such allegations. Law and Order Minister Adrian Vlok has said they are part of an orchestrated campaign aimed at discrediting

the police.

"The soldiers were in a real menacing mood. We are trying to discuss peace with the police and the soldiers moved forward and opened fire," McCannel told Reuters of the Sebokeng attack.

Thousands of angry residents Tuesday massed in the streets ahead of Mandela's visit while police and army armoured vehicles roared through the township, firing teargas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowds.

Hundreds of hostel dwellers, mainly metal workers in nearby industrial plants, assembled around the building amid rubble and makeshift barricades.

Sebokeng Resident Jafta Dalindindi said he had compiled the names of 31 people killed during the night.

"Police surrounded the area. The Inkatha people were brought in by (the police) using yellow cars. There was shooting from the Inkatha people. They were helped by police," he said.

He said the hostel dwellers were not affiliated to any political group. But metal workers are traditional supporters of the ANC.

Metalworkers' Union legal adviser Fezila Dabi said: "Police were assisting the attackers. One witness saw police in three private cars and a Combi (minibus) bring in the Inkatha people."

Hopes for Cambodian peace dashed over protocol

BANGKOK (R) — Hopes for an end to war in Cambodia raised by the world's great powers were dealt a severe blow Tuesday by a quarrel among Cambodian factions over which leader would fly to peace talks first.

The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council had proposed a plan that would place tens of thousands of peacekeepers in a country that has been bloodied for over a decade by civil war.

China and the Soviet Union agreed to stop providing arms to the belligerents.

But when it came time for the Cambodians to talk about the developments during scheduled talks in Jakarta, the leaders of three of the four factions refused to be the first to go.

"Why should we go?" a spokeswoman for the Khmer Rouge, the most powerful of three guerrilla groups trying to take power from the Vietnamese-backed government in Phnom Penh, asked Tuesday.

"Whom are we going to talk to?" she said. "Those junior puppets?"

She said Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and his delegation were preparing to leave for Jakarta when they heard that Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen would not attend the peace talks personally.

"We are waiting for Hun Sen," she said. "If he is going, then Khieu Samphan is going. If Hun Sen is not going then nobody from the Khmer Rouge is going."

Hun Sen backed out after he heard the talks would not be attended by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who heads a small non-Communist army and is titular leader of the three-faction guerrilla coalition dominated by the Khmer Rouge.

Sihanouk said he was sending his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh. But the son designated his political adviser to represent the Sihanouk interests when he heard that Hun Sen would be absent.

Former Premier Son Sann, the leader of the three guerrilla groups, the small, non-Communist Khmer People's National Liberation Front, was on his way from Paris to Jakarta, his office in Bangkok said.

"The Cambodian disease of over-optimism is in evidence here," a Western diplomat said.

A key plank of the plan proposed by the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France was the formation of a Supreme National Council to advise the United Nations when it took most of the reins of government in a transition period between war and peace.

North Korean premier starts historic visit to South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (Agencies) — The prime minister of North and South Korea met Tuesday in a historic first step aimed at easing cold war tensions and starting to generate "sufficient heat to thaw the thick ice of distrust."

It is the highest-level contact between the hostile Koreans since the division of the peninsula in 1945.

By holding talks, Communist North Korea also gives tacit acknowledgement to the legitimacy of South Korea's government, which it has refused to recognise for 40 years.

"I am so glad that you have taken the challenge of blazing an uncharted trail through the thicket to come here," South Korean Prime Minister Kang Yong-Hoon told his North Korean counterpart, Yon Hyong Muk.

"If only we build confidence in each other by meeting again and again, we should be able to generate sufficient heat to thaw the thick ice of distrust," Kang said at an eight-course banquet on the eve of formal talks.

"After crossing the border for

the first time, I realise it's easy," said Yon.

Despite their countries' opposing ideologies, the premiers have much in common. Both have roots near the North Korea-Manchurian border. Both are in their 60s, were appointed premiers in 1988 and are ranked high in their government hierarchy though their policy-making roles are limited.

The two begin formal talks Wednesday on easing military and political confrontation and launching multilateral exchanges. South Korean officials have cautioned against high expectations, saying the talks are only a significant first step on a long road toward peace and unification.

"People expect to reap much from the talks," South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo said Tuesday. "But the task of national unification should take a step by step approach, just like eating a bowl of rice one spoonful at a time."

North Korean radio, monitored in Tokyo, warned Seoul to approach the talks "with a sincere

attitude... and cease from spoiling the atmosphere of dialogue."

The broadcast said South Korea's attempt to enter the United Nations alone, a subject expected to arise in the talks, was a strategy to perpetuate the division of Korea.

The Korean peninsula was divided into the Communist North and capitalist South in 1945 and the two nations fought a three-year war in the early 1950s. Relations between the Koreans are hostile and Tuesday's border crossing was only the third by an official delegation in more than 40 years.

Thousands of South Koreans waved and applauded as the 16 vehicles drove into Seoul along a similar route used by North Korean tanks in the opening days of the 1950-53 Korean War.

A smiling Yon strolled into the 32-storey Intercontinental Hotel just after midday.

"I saw a lot of citizens along the road who waved their hands to welcome us," Yon told Kang. "The talks should proceed well so as not to disappoint the people."

Tensions flare as Indian women scuffle with Canadian troops

MONTREAL (R) — Two Mohawk women were injured after clashing with Canadian soldiers searching their reservation for weapons.

A 55-day armed standoff between the Mohawks and Canadian forces appeared to have been defused Sunday when the army bulldozed the last of the fortified Mohawk barricades in Quebec.

The Mohawks erected the first barricade in Oka, 30 kilometres west of Montreal, last spring to stop the town extending a golf course onto their ancestral land.

A Quebec policeman was killed at Oka on July 11 when officers tried to storm the barricade. Other Mohawks at the Kahnawake Reservation blocked the Mercier Bridge which links the island of Montreal to its southern suburbs.

The Canadian army, ordered to clear the barricades, met almost no resistance from the masked warriors as soldiers set about dismantling them during the weekend.

Most of the warriors slipped out of Oka as the army approached, taking with them the bulk of the Mohawks' arsenal of machine guns and grenades.

About 20 armed warriors, accompanied by about 30 women and children, refused to lay down their arms, fearing reprisals from Quebec police. Several Mohawks arrested in recent days accused police of beating them.

The clashes and accusations have angered natives across the country who claim they have been ill-treated and neglected by the Canadian government.

About 70 Mohawks overturned two Quebec police cars Monday night in the Akwesasne Reservation, which straddles the U.S. border.

Police have been at the reservation in force since May, when two Mohawks were killed in gun battles between pro- and anti-gambling factions.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has said he will meet Indian leaders to discuss their grievances once peace has been restored in the Mohawk settlements.

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Tomb readied for Allende's reburial

SANTIAGO (R) — Salvador Allende, Chile's elected Marxist president who died in a military coup 17 years ago, will finally be buried in a grave bearing his name.

Workmen were putting the finishing touches to the tomb where his remains will be laid in a ceremony his family has billed as a gesture of peace and reconciliation for Chile.

The military hurriedly buried Allende in an unmarked grave in the coastal town of Vina del Mar after he died in the 1973 coup.

Foreign guests including French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, Danielle Mitterrand, wife of French President Francois Mitterrand, and Lisbeth Palme, the wife of Sweden's murdered Prime Minister Olof Palme, planned to attend the funeral.

President Patricio Aylwin, a political opponent of Allende at the time of the coup who led Chile back to democracy at the head of a centre-left coalition, said he would speak at the funeral together with Rocard.

To avoid increasing tensions between the civilian government and the army, still led by General

Augusto Pinochet who was appointed by Allende before the 1973 coup, the family has not asked for military honours due a former president.

But security has been tightened in Santiago in case demonstrations by sympathisers spill over into clashes with police, as in the last years of military rule.

The ceremony — on the 20th anniversary of Allende's presidential election triumph — is a further step in Chile's return to democracy, which began when Aylwin took over from Pinochet in March.

Mururoa workers detail accidents at nuclear site

SYDNEY (R) — French nuclear tests in the South Pacific have killed several people, caused congenital abnormalities and led to outbreaks of fatal food poisoning, according to former workers at the Mururoa test site.

In a book Testimonies — Witnesses of French Testing in the South Pacific, published by the environmental group Greenpeace, they give accounts of life on the remote atoll where France has conducted 44 atmospheric and 120 underground nuclear tests.

Most of the people interviewed by Andy Biederman, a Swiss doctor and Greenpeace activist, were Polynesian. Many had never previously spoken about their experiences to an outsider and feared possible repercussions. Greenpeace said.

"While they do not scientifically prove a relationship between testing and cancer or ill-health, they are a dramatic record of human suffering that testing has brought," said Greenpeace's Stephanie Mills from Auckland.

The book was released in New Zealand and excerpts were made available to Reuters in Sydney.

In one excerpt Tama, not his real name, described an accident on the eve of the first French neutron bomb test, scheduled to take place on July 7, 1979.

A large bunker, which contained the bomb, had been built and above the bunker was the control room.

"While I was walking back up the steps to the control room... the explosion occurred. My colleague was flung out of the control room just in front of me — dead instantly," Tama said.

My boss, Rene Villette... was killed inside the bunker. Two other workers were severely burned and flown to France where they died, Tama said.

did," he said.

Tupou lived on Fangataufa Atoll, a test site island near Mururoa, for four years. He complained about a virulent form of food poisoning, from which some people died, after eating fish taken from the surrounding sea.

"After each underground explosion there was a sort of tidal wave that washed over part of Fangataufa and a few days later thousands of stinking dead fish washed up on shore," he said.

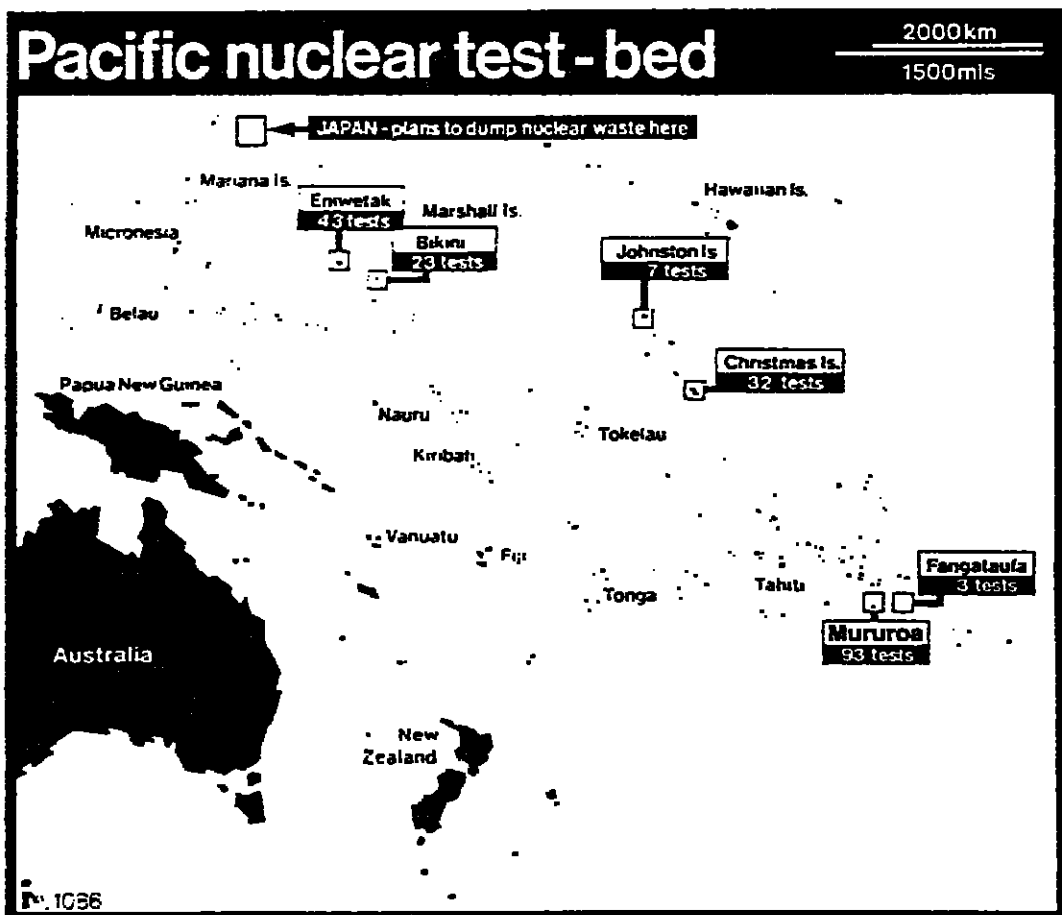
Women also describe abnormalities in newborn children while

their husbands were working on Mururoa.

"These testimonies, like all authentic human stories, contain discrepancies and distortions," Greenpeace says in the book's introduction.

"Some of the people interviewed are talking of events that occurred more than 20 years ago and of incidents which... are difficult to verify."

The French embassies in Canberra and Wellington declined to comment on the book until officials had read it.



"After the explosion, people with special protective gear had to enter the bunker and pour cement over the whole container. Rene Villette's remains — or what were thought to be his remains — were found three days later and sent to France in the form of a concrete block."

Another worker described an accident in 1965 on Mururoa when three workers were killed by dynamite. "Sometimes we had to work in the contaminated zones. We weren't forced to do so but we got extra money if we

Pope continues campaign against birth control

MWANZA, Tanzania (R) — Pope John Paul, speaking on the continent with the world's fastest population growth, reaffirmed Tuesday the Catholic Church's opposition to artificial birth control.

On the fourth day of his four-country African tour, the Pope celebrated an outdoor mass for tens of thousands of people in an idyllic hilltop setting overlooking Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake.

As he has done everywhere since beginning the 10-day trip Saturday, the Pope received a rousing welcome at the mass, with singing, dancing and drum beating.

The Pope, who has never shied away from the contraception issue even in areas where it is most controversial, listed artificial birth control as one of the dangers to the dignity of human life.

"This moral duty is especially urgent today in the face of new dangers and threats to innocent human life and the sanctity of marriage," he said.

"Among these threats I include the unpardonable crime of abortion."

tion and methods of birth control that are contrary to the truth of married love, as a gift by which husband and wife become cooperators with God in giving life to a new human person," he said.

Natural family planning — the rhythm method in which a couple abstain from sex during a woman's fertile period — is the only birth control method approved by the church.

But the church's stand has come under increasing attack from population planners in places like Africa, facing soaring birth rates which threaten economic development.

Last June the Africa Leadership Forum, a group of experts from 16 African nations and various multilateral agencies, said Africa had to curb its birth rate if it was to have any chance of real development.

Africa's 550 million population is growing at 3.1 per cent a year, the world's highest rate, and could reach 1.6 billion by the year 2020, outstripping China.

The number of Catholics is growing along with the population.

Nicaragua war wounded take over TV network

MANAGUA (R) — A group of Nicaraguan war wounded, some blind, others in wheelchairs, have stormed the headquarters of the government's television network demanding higher pensions.

The veterans, wounded in the eight-year contra war, took over the offices of the National Television System in Managua accompanied by mothers and orphans of soldiers killed in action.

Both government television stations were knocked off the air by the action late Monday. The veterans said they would not leave the headquarters or allow transmission until the government guaranteed higher pensions.

"We were left mutilated by the war but they are going to have to drag us out of here dead," said William Leon, who lost an eye fighting the U.S.-backed contras.

Only a handful of police stood outside the television network headquarters.

The veterans said the top pension for a wounded veteran was the equivalent of about \$15 a month. They said they represented 74,000 war pensioners.

They said their pensions have been eaten up by weekly government devaluations. The cordoba was devalued 8.2 per cent, falling to 980,000 to the dollar Monday.

Bank workers, also protesting shrinking wages, said Monday they would continue with partial work stoppages begun last Friday in demand of a 145 per cent salary increase.

The government of President Violeta Chamorro has been hit by two general strikes since it took over from the Sandinistas in April.

Florida campus killer dares police to catch him

GAINESVILLE, Florida (R) — A serial killer who has petrified this university community left signals at his grisly crime scenes threatening to strike again and daring police to "catch me if you think you can," a top investigator said Monday.

Gainesville police Captain R.B. Ward told Reuters in an interview that the killer thrived on the confrontation with authority, in this case police.

"The killer is playing games. He's getting everything he wants," said Ward, the co-chief of the special task force investigating the murders that have terrified this city of 135,000, where people have armed themselves with everything from rifles to crossbows.

Since Aug. 26 the bodies of five students — four slender brunette women and one athletic male — have been found stabbed to death in off-campus apartments near

the University of Florida.

Police say the killings are all the work of one man who mutilated at least three of his victims.

On Saturday, police said they have narrowed the field to eight possible suspects, four of whom are high on their list. They declined to comment on the suspects' whereabouts, and no arrests have been made.

Asked whether the killer was motivated by a need to control this north-central Florida community, Ward said: "It appears to be the motive, yes. It is a part of the need. The other part would be the confrontation with authority."

"It's part of his lust," Ward declined to discuss the sexual components of the murder-mutilations except to say, "to put a tag on what kind of killer this is, I don't think I'm qualified. But there is just involved in some form or fashion."

N. Zealand premier resigns, minister to take over

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer resigned Tuesday and said he would be succeeded by Foreign Minister Mike Moore.

Palmer announced the decision after a meeting of Labour Party members of parliament and told a news conference he would retire from politics at the next election on Oct. 27.

Moore, 41, will be New Zealand's third Labour prime minister in little more than a year and faces an uphill struggle to restore the party's dismal election prospects, analysts say.

"I have made this decision because I believe that it is in the best interests of the Labour Party's chances at the general election," said a calm Palmer.

Labour trails the centre-right National Party by up to 35 per cent in opinion polls with less than two months to go before the election.

Palmer's critics have accused him of lacklustre leadership, saying this was the main reason behind Labour's poor showing.

But analysts say more than two years of internal Labour squabbles have undermined any chance the party could regain the popularity which swept former Prime Minister David Lange to a landslide victory in 1987.

Palmer called for party unity. "The need for the feeling of unity is paramount at this time and that feeling of unity will have been restored by my decision," he said.

Palmer took over in August last year when Lange quit after months of attacks from the party right, led by former Finance Minister Roger Douglas.

"I do not intend to stand as a candidate at the general election," said Palmer, a former university law lecturer. He added he would remain as environment minister outside the cabinet until the polls.

Palmer said he had resigned without a vote of confidence. Moore had been elected by the parliamentary caucus after sweeping aside a nominal challenge from an obscure Labour member, Richard Northey.

Finance Minister David Caygill, a close friend and ally of Palmer, had agreed to serve under Moore. His spokeswoman said. Analysts said financial markets could have plunged into turmoil if Caygill had quit.

Moore was under no illusions about his job ahead.

"I have no mandate from the people. Over the next eight weeks I will put to New Zealand a stark, clear choice between what Labour can give (and) what National can take," he told a news conference.

"I find myself in a very difficult situation becoming prime minister eight weeks before an election."

"My life has been full of difficult situations. I've always got through them. I'm a battler. I know New Zealand is full of battlers. Fight with me to make this country as great as we know it can be."

COLUMN

Mrs. Quayle tossed into Colorado River

GRAND CANYON, Arizona (AP) — Marilyn Quayle was tossed into the Colorado River during a whitewater rafting expedition through the Grand Canyon but escaped injury, a park official says.

The wife of Vice President Dan Quayle fell into the water when the raft hit Lava Falls Rapids, one of the roughest stretches in the river, Chuck Lundy, spokesman for Grand Canyon National Park, said. John Reed, assistant superintendent for the park, pulled Mrs. Quayle back into the raft, Lundy said. She was wearing a life jacket as required, he said. The Quayles were accompanying a U.S. Park Service patrol on a rafting expedition of several days, said Lundy.

Big Ben's bell is back in business

LONDON (AP) — Big Ben's bell is back in business, tolling the hours as it has done for 131 years. The famous, booming tone of the bell resumed for the first time since March 26, the Department of the Environment said. Inspectors found earlier this year that the hammer which strikes the bell was suffering metal fatigue, so repairs were made. Big Ben, named for Sir Benjamin Hall, a government works commissioner, first sounded May 31, 1859. It is normally silenced twice a year when the hands of the four-faced clock are moved forward in the spring for daylight savings time and back again in the fall. Big Ben properly is the name of the bell, but it has become the nickname for the entire 20-storey tower of the Houses of Parliament.

1,000 African birds die in transit to U.S. dealer

NAIROBI (R) — Over half a consignment of 2,000 African birds, including hornbills, touracos and parrots, smothered or starved to death during shipment from Tanzania to the United States, members of the Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (KSPCA) said. KSPCA officials here said the birds were packed into crates so tightly that more than 1,000 died. They were unloaded from an aircraft and left at Nairobi Airport last week. The consignment was being shipped to an importer in Chicago by four companies in Tanzania.

Peruvian claims world record for telling jokes

LIMA (R) — With a broad smile and a four-day-old beard, a Spanish-born Peruvian businessman claimed here to have set the world record for joke-telling for the second year in a row following a non-stop 100-hour joke-telling marathon. Felipe Carbonell, the son of a Spanish miner, said he broke his earlier record of cracking jokes for 72 hours set in Lisbon in 1988.

"Laughter in a crisis-ridden country such as Peru is an elixir to help us bear the burden," Carbonell, a bullfighting commentator and tennis player, told reporters. Peru is plagued by guerrilla violence and its economy is in shambles. During his 100-hour session at a hotel in Lima, he said he told 8,000 jokes in Spanish, English, French, Italian, and Portuguese.

World's largest calf perishes in Florida blaze

KISSIMMEE, Florida (AP) — A two-headed calf, a boar rat whose teeth would not stop growing and all 550 pounds (250 kilograms) of what proprietors declared the world's largest clam have perished in a museum fire, more than 500 displays of human and animal oddities, wonders of the deep and instruments of death, the occult and superstition were destroyed Saturday in a fire at the Great American Fun House, officials said. While the calf and clam were dead long before flames engulfed the museum in this town south of Orlando, charred placards in the windows note that all the exhibits had once, in fact, been "born alive."

There were many things here that you'll never see again," said Museum Proprietor Vinnie Lamano at the fire scene. Lamano and oddities collector Mark Frierson opened their shrine to the bizarre inside a former surf shop 10 months ago. Arson investigators sifted through debris that included a shrunken head, the shoes of an Icelandic giant purported to be largest man ever, and some bones the museum said were used by aborigines which doctors to kill enemies without touching them.